Hafa Adai!

San Nicolas: Uphold law on local appropriation bill. PAGE 2

Bridge Capital is biggest sponsor of FESTPAC delegation. PAGE 5

$1

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

TASTE OF CULTURE

Members of the Marianas High School POLKSAI Guma Chamorro perform one of their cultural dances during the kickoff of the 25th Annual Taste of The Marianas International Food Festival at the American Memorial Park last Saturday, May 4. The opening of the Marianas Visitors Authority's signature event was a huge success.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

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FOLLOWING THREAT OF PULLOUT FROM AIRLINES

CPA lowers airport fees

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Ports Authority has reverted back to the old methodology rates prior to the most recent increase essentially lowering airport landing fees after airlines threatened to pull out from the CNMI.

See CPA on Page 4

KIMBERLY B. ESMORES

The Commonwealth Ports Authority board of directors meet for their monthly board meeting yesterday. From left, CPA board directors Joseph M. Diaz and Thomas Villagomez, CPA chair Joe Ayuyu, executive director Leo Tudela, CPA vice chair Antonio Cabrera, and CPA board director Ramon Tebuteb.

Newly appointed Senate JGL Committee chair says they are now ready

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

King-Nabors

Sen. Karl R. King-Nabors (R-Tinian), the newly appointed chairman of the Senate Committee on Judiciary, Government and Law, has appointed members to serve on the committee.

King-Nabors notified Senate President Edith E. DeLeon Guerrero (D-Saipan)

See NEWLY on Page 4

CNMI gets 0 from requested $82.1M 'Solar for All' grant

» Sen. Manglona says CNMI was not among the 60 successful applicants

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Manglona

The CNMI got zero from its requested $82.-million "Solar for All" grant package to provide solar panel to homes on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota, according to Sen. Paul A. Manglona (Ind-Rota) yesterday.

In response to *Saipan Tribune*'s inquiry, Manglona said unfortunately, at the Senate Public

See GRANT on Page 4

Extreme drought persists on Saipan and Tinian only

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The National Weather Service based off of Tiyan, Guam has released its most recent drought statement reporting that extreme drought persists on Saipan and Tinian only while drought conditions continue to improve for the rest of the Marianas.

NWS reports that a complex week could be shaping up across the western North

See DROUGHT on Page 4

INSIDE

SUPPLEMENT

Saipan Tribune celebrates Mother's Day with a supplement chockful of inspiring stories from local women that truly make them the light of our homes.

PAGE 11

LOCAL

This Saturday, May 11, the 25th Annual Taste of The Marianas International Food Festival will feature the Oh My Grill International Food Challenge, pitting local and international competitors against each other and the clock in a bid to finish an entire Marianas-style BBQ platter within one hour.

PAGE 21

LIFE & STYLE

Thousands of ride-or-die Taylor Swift fans who missed out on her U.S. concert tour last year or didn't want to buy exorbitantly priced tickets to see her again found an out-of-the-way solution: Fly to Europe.

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Local

San Nicolas: Uphold law on local appropriation bill

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

San Nicolas

House of Representatives minority leader Rep. Patrick H. San Nicolas (R-Tinian) said the House of Representatives' rule pertaining to referral of local appropriation bill, is in conflict with the Local Law Act of 1983.

San Nicolas requested during the House special session last week for the amendment of House Rule 8, section 1, by deleting the referral of House local appropriation bills to the House Ways and Means Committee.

"As representatives, we must uphold the law, specifically, the Local Law Act of 1983, and ensure that our actions and decisions are in accordance with its provisions," he said.

In response to *Saipan Tribune*'s request for clarification yesterday, the minority leader said he requested the amendment as his local appropriation bill sits in the committee for a month because of the House Rule.

San Nicolas said his local appropriation bill should be transmitted to the Tinian Legislative Delegation upon introduction.

San Nicolas said the amendment will benefit all senatorial districts.

He pointed out during the special session that under House Rule 8, section 1, a House local appropriation bill shall be referred to the Ways and Means Committee upon introduction.

However, San Nicolas said, Local Law Act of 1983 and House Rule 9, section 3, requires the referral of all House local appropriation bills to the appropriate Senatorial District Delegation after one legislative day, barring any objections from the House members.

The minority leader pointed out that Public Law 19-34, which amended the Local Law Act of 1983, clearly stated that all local appropriation bills shall be exempt from the three legislative day requirement.

San Nicolas said this means that a local appropriation bill would sit in their desks for one day, the day it was introduced.

He said this means that on the day they may object to the local appropriation bill if the bill was not local in nature, and if such objection is adopted, then it could be referred to the Ways and Means Committee.

San Nicolas said this also means that should there be no objection, then the House shall refer the House local appropriation bill to the appropriate Senatorial District Delegation.

He said CNMI statutes take precedence over the House Rules of Procedure.

"In any case where there is a conflict or inconsistency between the statute and internal rules of procedures, the statute must be followed," the minority leader said.

San Nicolas said this is to prevent any arbitrary or unlawful actions, and to guarantee that the rule of law is respected and maintained.

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Huffman, Palik, Johnson wrap up robust Joint Committee Meeting

ASAN, Guam—The U.S. Indo-Pacific Command Senior Military Official in Guam and Micronesia Rear Adm. Greg Huffman, Federated States of Micronesia Vice President Aren Palik, and U.S. Ambassador to the FSM Jennifer Johnson hosted another bilateral FSM-Joint Committee Meeting from May 1-2 at the Joint Region Marianas headquarters in Nimitz Hill.

Huffman

Palik

Johnson

"The FSM is a crucial part of the overall defense plan and is vitally important to the region," Huffman said. "With that in mind, continued communication and collaboration with the Ambassador to the FSM and the heads of states in Micronesia are absolutely paramount to our core mission in defending the homeland," Huffman continued.

The JCM agenda for this session consisted of progress updates on the defense site working group projects throughout the FSM, further information on the establishment of a national security office and maritime security throughout the region. "These meetings allow us the chance to sit together and discuss priorities, enhance our partnerships and look for opportunities to strengthen the communities throughout the FSM," Huffman said.

Johnson echoed Huffman's remarks and described the JCM as a gathering of family to frankly discuss important mutual security and defense matters between the FSM and the United States.

"Over the past two days, we had productive and meaningful exchanges to address specific security challenges, recap our accomplishments, and pave the way forward. We were very pleased by the large, high-level turnout from both sides, and we look forward to our next meeting in Chuuk as we continue the momentum we built with our enduring partners and friends," Johnson noted

Senior leaders from U.S. Indo-Pacific Command, the U.S. Department of State, and government leadership of FSM also joined the meeting. The JCM is in accordance with the Compact of Free Association Title III: Security and Defense Relations and promotes ongoing dialogue between nations to enhance security and defense responsibilities in the region. ***(PR)***

CPA

From page 1

Yesterday, the Commonwealth Ports Authority held its monthly board meeting and gained an unexpected visit from Gov. Arnold I. Palacios.

During his visit, Palacios raised concerns he received from Korean airline partners like Jeju Airlines who have expressed that the current landing fees (which were significantly increased last year) is taking a toll on them.

"I received a letter from the chairman of Jeju Airline addressing their concerns with airline landing fees. We need to move forward in addressing this. We need to hold the increase in fees. That was their concern. The increased fees. If they pull out two of their flights, we're going to be in a worse position compared the position we were in in the beginning of the fiscal year. We need to see what we can do to hold the increase fees in abeyance," he said.

Palacios added though that the board must still go through the right process before implementing a hold or a suspension of the increased fees.

"I know there is a process. It's a matter of taking a look at the fees and possibly rescinding the increase or suspending the previous board's decision. I know you have to go through a process in reviewing the legalities. Maybe the whole board can go back and re-vote. We need to go through the correct process before the board makes a decision to approve sort of a temporary suspension or rollback on the new rates if we want to continue to see these flights come in. We need to move on that," Palacios told the board.

CPA board chair Joe Ayuyu said that CPA, for a while, has been receiving similar feedback from airline partners who have expressed that they may have to either pull out their service from the CNMI or make cuts to their service due to the increase in fees.

"The economy (based on the recent news of the Hyatt Regency Saipan closing) is getting worse. We can't address the issue of reviving our economy if we take our time. Action must be taken," he said.

Because of this feedback, CPA recently adopted a program that would essentially charge airline partners less if they, in turn, continue to provide service to the CNMI.

"The program we've set up is from Oct. 1 to December 2023, we stuck to the old rate [prior to the increase], then from January to March, we gave a 50% discount on the new rate provided that [the airlines] bring in more customers. Then, for the remainder of the year, airlines are eligible for the discount if they increase the number of customers they fly to the CNMI. If you don't increase, you're not entitled to the program. I feel it's a very fair program for both the airlines and us. Is this permanent? No. But, the economy is changing, and we need to adapt to those changes. The economy won't get better if we don't do anything," he said.

Ayuyu, in support of helping its airline partners, added that CPA will definitely be losing money.

"Yes, CPA is going to lose some money, but sometimes you need to lose money to make money," he said.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

GRANT

From page 1

Utilities, Transportation, and Communications Committee's informal meeting yesterday afternoon with Office of Grants Management and State Clearinghouse administrator Epiphanio Cabrera and his staff, the committee was informed that the CNMI was not amongst the 60 successful applicants of the "Solar for All" grant.

Manglona, who chairs the PUTC Committee, said a debriefing between Cabrera and a representative for "Solar for All" program is scheduled for May 21, 2024 when the CNMI will know the final result of OGM's grant application.

The senator called for the informal meeting after he received information that the CNMI got zero from the "Solar for All" grant.

He said Cabrera confirmed that the CNMI was notified last April 24, 2024 of the decision regarding its grant application.

Manglona said Cabrera stated that OGM will request for a reconsideration.

Manglona said Guam received $60 million from the grant.

Last Tuesday, the PUTC Committee in its report disclosed that Cabrera earlier told the committee that the CNMI is guaranteed at least $25 million out of the requested $82.1 million "Solar for All" grant package to provide solar panels to homes on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

The PUTC Committee informed Senate President Edith E. DeLeon Guerrero (D-Saipan) in the report that the grant is meant to assist 5,000 total homes with rooftop residential solar panels, about 564 homes on Rota, and 580 homes on Tinian based on the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. account numbers.

According to the committee, last March 14, Cabrera provided an overview and updated status of the "Solar for All" grant during an informal meeting with the PUTC Committee.

Cabrera shared that the $82.1-million grant package was submitted last August and that the anticipated award date was March 24, 2024.

Cabrera told the committee that the CNMI may or may not receive the amount requested but is guaranteed at least $25 million.

There is an understanding with the committee that the program is anticipated to come into fruition by August 2024 with households on Rota being the first municipality to realize the "Solar for All" Program as pilot recipients.

The action plan for the grant would depend on how much the Commonwealth is approved to receive.

Cabrera shared that he is the lead for the project and Thomasa Mendiola is the alternate.

The plan is to move Mendiola into an office where she can run the "Solar for All" Program.

If the $82.1-million grant request is approved, OGM will employ 25 personnel for Saipan, four for Tinian, and four for Rota, and all the expenses for assets associated with the project will follow.

OGM is working with NMTech, Department of Labor, and Northern Marianas College to establish a training section for implementing the subject grant.

Cabrera shared that for homes that are not adequately structured for a solar panel, funds are set aside to retrofit them with a steel frame for the solar panels.

Net metering as it relates to the "Solar for All" program was also discussed.

The program will not feed any excess power produced into the CUC grid system for now.

The OGM needs to study the energy generation on Rota because the engineers of an Australian firm determined that only 15% can connect using net metering without any impact on the grid.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

DPS seeks public's help to alleviate traffic coongestion

By CHRYSTAL MARINO
chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

In an effort to ease the strain of heavy traffic, the Department of Public Safety released a public safety advisory yesterday, asking motorists traversing Beach Road Chalan Kanoa northbound to Beach Road Garapan, to assist in mitigating traffic congestion by exploring alternative routes, thereby enhancing the efficiency of their daily commute.

Recognizing the significance of student and community pick-up activities in the area, DPS is actively collaborating with the Public School System and the Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority to provide temporary transportation solutions. These measures aim to ensure a more seamless and less stressful journey for residents and commuters alike.

DPS spokesperson Sgt. Fred Sato expressed his gratitude for the public's cooperation in enhancing traffic flow and reiterated the importance of collective efforts in addressing congestion challenges.

For further inquiries or assistance, contact the Department of Public Safety at (670) 664-9000.

NEWLY

From page 1

Wednesday that with the full committee members on hand, they are ready and committed to fulfilling their duties and responsibilities as outlined in the Senate interim rules.

The chairman appointed Sen. Dennis C. Mendiola (R-Rota) as vice chairman, and Sens. Corina L. Magofna (Ind-Saipan), Francisco Q. Cruz (R-Tinian), Donald M. Manglona (Ind-Rota), and Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian) as members.

Citing numerous pending bills and not holding a committee meeting for eight months, DeLeon Guerrero on Tuesday removed Sen. Celina R. Babauta (D-Saipan) as chairwoman of the JGL Committee.

DeLeon Guerrero appointed King-Nabors as the new JGL Committee chairman.

DROUGHT

From page 1

Pacific as extreme to exceptional drought persists in some areas of the NWS Guam Area of Responsibility, while the tropics threaten to become active in other areas.

According to NWS, extreme drought persists for Saipan and Tinian while exceptional drought persists for Yap.

For the Marianas, NWS says to expect a dry trade wind pattern to persist through the end of the week with mostly sunny skies, moderate trades and isolated showers.

Clouds could increase for the weekend along with a slight chance of thunderstorms.

As for the Yap and Palau, fair weather is expected and will prevail a couple more days with partly to mostly sunny skies, isolated showers and gentle to moderate northeast winds.

A near-equatorial trough passing south of Yap and Palau will eventually lift northward closer to Palau and Yap, bringing a better chance for showers and thunderstorms into the weekend.

Weekend weather and conditions into early next week will hinge closely on weather development within that NET.

Meanwhile, a showery trade-wind pattern will persist farther east across the region from Chuuk to Majuro through the weekend.

"Episodic in nature, showers and thunderstorms will pulse up and down across the region as it remains in an active phase into early next week. Most showers will fall between 3N and 8N, but could reach as far north as 11N this weekend, bringing showers to the northern RMI," said NWS.

In addition, a near-equatorial trough south of Palau and Yap is the focus of a couple of weak tropical disturbances; namely Invests 91W and 90W which are both rated as sub-low by the Joint Typhoon Warning Center. This means they are not expected to have significant development in the next couple days.

However, NWS says beyond the next few days, mid- and long-range model forecasts vary significantly in regard to development potential, with possible scenarios ranging from a passing tropical disturbance with gusty winds, periods of heavy showers and thunderstorms to a possible tropical storm in the region.

Bridge Capital is biggest sponsor of FESTPAC delegation

By CHRYSTAL MARINO{Br}
chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

For over a decade, Bridge Capital LLC has been one of the CNMI's biggest supporters of the arts; and it once again showed its dedication to the community of local artists with an over $10,000 donation to the CNMI delegation heading to the Festival of Pacific Arts and Culture in Hawaii next month.

The turnover ceremony was held at Bridge Capital's headquarters in Garapan last Wednesday.

The company picked the highest tier of sponsorship, the Ma'gas Galaide Sponsor, and donated $8,000 in cash and an estimated $8,000 in-kind sponsorship exceeding the tier's amount of $8,000-$10,000.

On behalf of the FESTPAC delegation, planning committee chair Mary Margaret "Maggie" Sablan shared her gratitude for the donation, noting that the funds go a long way.

Bridge Capital's Julie Ann Duenas spoke on behalf of the company and said, "Bridge Capital's donation and participation in the FESTPAC 2024 is definitely an extension of our continued commitment and support of the arts be it visual arts, performing arts, or literary arts. It's always an honor for Bridge Capital to support the local culture and the arts, especially the artists."

With the company recently holding their 11th Annual Art Competition during the Flame Tree Art Festival last April, Duenas shared that the competition alone cost an estimated $30,000, showing the company's dedication to artists in the CNMI.

"Basically, we want to give back to the community and our artists that always showcase the talent that we have here in the CNMI," she said.

Duenas also added that the in-kind donation made to the FestPAC delegation was sending two Bridge Capital support staff.

Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture director Sepe Gloriana Teuira, who will also serve as the 2024 CNMI FestPAC delegation's state art representative, shared that the help from Bridge Capital was much appreciated, especially as they are currently short-staffed.

"We're short-staffed as it is considering the venues where the groups are going to be, especially the performing artists, this is why we need the support staff."

Teuira shared her gratitude to Bridge Capital as well.

"This is our biggest sponsor. We're really appreciative of Bridge Capital and regardless of what events come out, you will always see their name on the banners, logos, and shirts—even if they tell us that times are tough, they still come out and give anyways."

CHRYSTAL MARINO

Members of the 2024 CNMI FestPac delegation committee and Bridge Capital LLC officials take a photo after the turnover ceremony at Bridge Capital's office building last Wednesday in Garapan. From left, Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture director Sepe Gloriana Teuira, CNMI FestPac Youth ambassador Jude Litulumar, Bridge Capital office manager Julie Ann Duenas, CNMI FestPac Youth ambassador Shannon Sasamoto, Bridge Capital's Alex Palacios, and 2024 FESTPAC delegation planning committee chair Mary Margaret "Maggie" Sablan.

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JKPL to host summer reading program for children, teens, adult

Mark your calendars for this summer's reading program as adventures begin at your local library. The Joeten-Kiyu Public Library is excited to bring you a world of activities, programs, and reading challenges. Activities include a reading challenge, STEM-related activities, arts and crafts, and presentations from community partners. The program is set from June 11 to 28, 2024. The teen program will run from July 16 to 26. Seating is limited. Registration runs from Tuesday, May 14, 2024, to Friday, May 31, 2024, or until spots are filled. Registrants must have a valid library card and no library fines.

Please see below for JKPL Summer schedule:

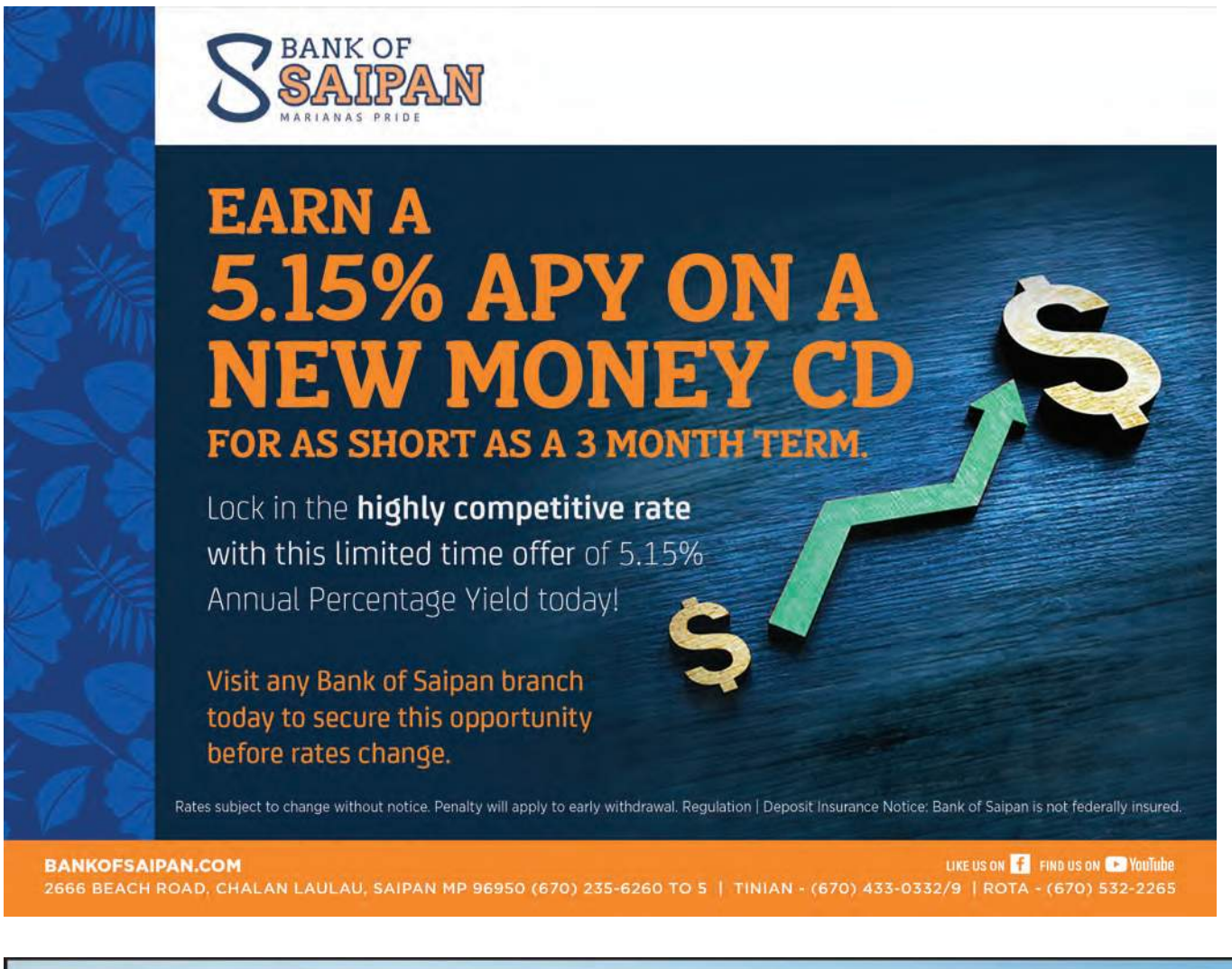
- Session A: Ages 6-8 (Tuesday-Friday, June 11-28, from 8:30am to 11:30am)
- Session B: Ages 9-12 (Tuesday-Friday, June 11-28, from 12:30pm to 3:30 pm)
- Teens: Ages 13-18 (Tuesday-Friday, July 16-26, from 2:30pm to 4:30pm)
- Adults: 18 and up (Tuesday-Friday, June 11-28)

The Children's Summer Reading Program is open to patrons ages 6-12 with valid library cards. For many pre-readers and their families, JKPL offers free access to age-appropriate programs, resources, and expertise to the community. Its Early Literacy Summer Reading Program is available for parents or guardians to include their youngest children starting with newborns from birth to age 5. Participants will receive an early literacy activity log, which will need to be completed to earn an awesome prize.

Teens ages 13 and up can participate in the Summer Reading Program. Participants will receive online reading logs accessible daily. The reader completing the most books will receive an extra reward! Participants can join the "I Love My Joeten-Kiyu Public Library" essay contest, where our wonderful JKPL staff will vote on entry winners. The winner will receive a special prize! Teen JKPL Summer schedule starts Tuesday, Friday, July 16-26, from 2:30pm to 4:30pm.

For adults ages 18 and up. JKPL has packets to go. For three weeks, activities include a reading challenge, arts and crafts, presentations from organizations and community partners, book bingo, computer classes, and a recommended book corner.

Please enjoy your public library's free resources by visiting our website at www.cnmilib.org like/follow JKPL's Facebook page @joetenkiyupubliclibrary, Instagram @joetenkiyupubliclibrary, TikTok @jkpl670, Twitter @Joeten-Kiyu, and YouTube: joeten kiyu public library or visit our website www.cnmilib.org to see the progress and programs JKPL has worked so hard to offer for our community. For more information regarding any of our activities, contact JKPL at (670) 235-7322/7315. ***(PR)***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Although Joeten strives to ensure that all pricing information on this ad is accurate, occasionally an error may occur and goods may be mispriced. We reserve the right to correct all typographical and pictorial errors.

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BUSINESS HOURS:
Monday to Saturday
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Department of Community and Cultural Affairs
Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) Program
Caller Box 10007 Bldg. No. 1347/1344 Ascension Drive
Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950
Website: www.childcare.gov.mp

Vision for Children and Families:

"All children in the CNMI will be safe, healthy, and thriving members of our culturally diverse community. Their families will have access to the high quality supports they need to achieve their potential."

Notice

Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) Program
Public Hearing for State Plan FFY2025 to 2027

Notice is hereby given that the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs (DCCA) Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) Program will hold a public hearing to provide an opportunity for the community to comment on the provisions of child care services under the CNMI CCDF State Plan for FFY2025-2027.

All interest persons are invited to attend the hearing to provide their comments relative to the proposed State Plan either orally or in writing at the hearing. The Public Hearing is scheduled for these dates, times, and location.

Date	Location	Time
May 31, 2024	Kagman Community Center, Saipan	530pm to 730pm
June 11, 2024	Tinian Public Library	530pm to 730pm
June 13, 2024	Rota Mayor's Office Conference Hall	530pm to 730pm
June 14, 2024	Multi Purpose Center, Susupe, Saipan	530pm to 730pm

A sign language interpreter is available at all public hearings. Large prints of the summary of the CNMI CCDF State Plan may be provided if a written request is made at least 5-working days before the scheduled hearing. All written request should be forwarded to ewabol.ccdf@childcare.gov.mp with the subject line: Request for Large Print of Summary of CCDF State Plan.

Copies of the proposed CNNMI CCDF Plan will be available for download by May 11, 2024 via the childcare website at childcare.gov.mp.

All written comments should be received by the Child Care and Development Fund on or before June 15, 204 and addressed to: Maribel Loste, CCDF Director. Written comments may be submitted at the CCDF Administration Building Bldg. No. 1344 Ascension Ct. Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950 or via email at mloste.ccdf@childcare.gov.mp

Anunsiu

Inadahin Påtgun yan Prugråman Dibelopmentun Fondu (CCDF)
Inekkunguk Pupbliku para State Plan FFY2025 to 2027

Ma'anunsia guini på'gu na i Inadahin Påtgun yan Prugråman Dibelopmentun Fondu (i CCDF) gi påpa' i Dipåttamentun Asuntun Kumunidåt yan Kuttura (i DCCA) na siempri mago'ti inekkunguk pupbliku para u manå'i oputtunidåt i kumunidåt para u mahunguk upiñon-ñiha gi mantensión i sitbisiun inadahin påtgun gi påpa' i CNMI CCDF State Plan para FFY2025-2027.

Todu intiresåo na pitsona makumbibida para u ma'atendi i miting para u mahunguk upiñon-ñiha put i mapropoponi na State Plan maseha gi sinangan osino gi tinigi'-ñiha gi miting. I Inekkunguk Pupbliku mapega para esti siha na fetcha, ora, yan lugåt.

Fetcha	Lugåt	Ora
Måyu 31, 2024	Kagman Community Center, Saipan	530pm to 730pm
Huniu 11, 2024	Tinian Public Library	530pm to 730pm
Huniu 13, 2024	Rota Mayor's Office Conference Hall	530pm to 730pm
Huniu 14, 2024	Multi Purpose Center, Susupe, Saipan	530pm to 730pm

Managuaha intetpitin "sign language" gi todu na inekkunguk pupbliku. Siña mapribeniyi håo dångkulun kopian i masumåria na CNMI CCDF State Plan yanggin manrikuesta håo gi tinigi' 5-dihas åntis di i isketyu i miting. Todu i tinigi' na rikuesta debi na u mahanåogui guatu as ewabol.ccdf@childcare.gov.mp yan i put håfa na suhetu: Rikuestan i Dångkulun Printa put i Masumåria na CCDF State Plan.

I kopian i mapropoponi na CNMI CCDF State Plan siempri managuaha para "download" gi Måyu 11, 2024 ginen i website inadahin påtgun gi childcare.gov.mp.

Todu i tinigi' upiñon siha debi na u marisibi ginen i Inadahin Påtgun yan Dibelopmentun Fondu gi osino åntis di Huniu 15, 2024 yan para u rinisibi as: Maribel Loste, Direktot CCDF. I tinigi' upiñon siha siña ma'intrega hålum gi Atministrasión CCDF, Building Bldg. No. 1344 Ascension Ct. Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950 osino email guatu gi mloste.ccdf@childcare.gov.mp

Arongorong

Mwiischil Progróómal Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF)
reel State Plan FFY2025 ngáli 2027

Arongorong yeel nge isiis bwe Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Sóóbw me Kko (DCCA) Progróómal Child Care me Development Fund (CCDF) re ayoora arongorong ngáliir toulap reel igha rebwe ayoora yoongáli ngáli kkomunidóód bwe rebwe ayoora ischil kkapas wóól peiráághil alillisil child care faal CNMI CCDF State Plan ngáli FFY2025-2027.

Re ghal faingiir alongeer schóó kka re mwuschel rebwe tuutá llól mwiisch rebwe isiisilong aar ischil kkapas ngare apasa milikka e súllúngáli ppwommwol State Plan. E amwirimwiritiw ráál, oora, me lugóótil Mwiischil Toulap.

Ráál	Lugóót	Oora
May 31, 2024	Kagman Community Center, Seipél	530pm ngáli 730pm
June 11, 2024	Tinian Public Library	530pm ngáli 730pm
June 13, 2024	Rota Mayor's Office Conference Hall	530pm ngáli 730pm
June 14, 2024	Multi Purpose Center, Suupi, Seipél	530pm ngáli 730pm

Ebwe lo schóól atéétéélil kkapas reel sign language reel alongal Mwiischil toulap. Rebwe ayoorai ngalugh ischil summary iye e ssór tomwógh ischil reel mille CNMI SSDF State Plan ngare u ayoora tingór llól isch limoow ráál mmwalil mwiisch. Alongal tingór llól isch ebwe isiis ngáli ewabol.ccdf@childcare.gov.mp fengál wóól subject line bwe: Request for Large Print of Summary of CCDF State Plan.

Eyoor pappidil ppwommwol CNMI CCDF State Plan emmwel ubwe download-li wóól Ghúúw (Móózo) 11, 2024 reel aar childcare wedsite me childcare.gov.mp.

Alongal ischil kkapas rebwe bwughi sángi Child Care me Development Fund wóól ngare mmwalil Alimaté (Unnyo) 15, 2024 me ebwe isiis ngáli: Maribel Loste, CCDF Director. Ebwe isiisiló ischil kkapas ngáli CCDF Administration Building GLDG. No. 1344 Ascension Ct. Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950 ngare email-li ló mloste.ccdf@childcare.gov.mp

/s/_____
Maribel Loste
CCDF Director

/s/_____
Francisco M. Rabauliman
DCCA Secretary

NMC School of Business students excel in Capsim 2.0 global simulation program

NMC
Northern Marianas College School of Business students Edilberto Javier III, Marineth Cardinio, Halia Taisacan, and Mary "Ahby" Fronda.

Northern Marianas College School of Business students recently achieved remarkable success in the Capsim 2.0 global business simulation program. The NMC students placed in the Top 10 percentile among 6,658 participants from around the world.

The Capsim 2.0 program is a business simulation designed to provide students with hands-on experience in corporate decision-making, problem-solving, financial management, and other essential business skills.

A team of four NMC students, comprising Edilberto Javier III, Marineth Cardinio, Halia Taisacan, and Mary "Ahby" Fronda, achieved a Top 10 percentile ranking among 6,879 teams worldwide. This performance included competing against teams from prestigious universities such as Purdue, SUNY Polytechnical, University of Massachusetts at Amherst, and California State University-East Bay.

"For graduating bachelor seniors at the School of Business, the integration of Capstone 2.0 from Capsim Management Simulations into the MG440 curriculum marks a pivotal advancement in experiential learning. This innovative simulation, now in its second semester, puts students at the helm of strategic decision-making within a business context that prioritizes sustainability-a critical aspect of modern entrepreneurship and management," said NMC School of Business interim director Dr. Barbara C. Hunter.

"Their success underscores the effectiveness of Capstone 2.0 in honing students' business acumen and decision-making prowess. This innovative simulation equips students with the tools they need to succeed in today's dynamic and sustainable business landscape," said Will Curnutt, manager of Client Relationship Services, Capsim Management Simulations.

The NMC School of Business has been utilizing the Capsim Simulation since 2015 to provide students with a real-world, hands-on learning experience. The integration of the Capsim 2.0 platform into the MG440 curriculum marks a significant advancement in the school's experiential learning approach.

For more information about NMC's business program, email NMC School of Business interim director Dr. Barbara Hunter at barbara.hunter@marianas.edu. ***(PR)***

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES (PHS)
MATERNAL, INFANT, CHILD & ADOLESCENT HEALTH PROGRAMS (MICAH)
TITLE V MATERNAL & CHILD HEALTH SERVICES

"ADDENDUM"

Correction (From RFP24-CHCC/PHS/MICAH-010 to RFP24-CHCC/PHS/MICAH-013)

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: May 13, 2024 TIME: 10:00AM (CHST)

RFP24-CHCC/PHS/MICAH-013

"NEED ASSESSMENT FOR MICAH PROGRAM"

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWNLOAD THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE [WWW.CHCC.HEALTH]. ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO REQUEST **FOR PROPOSALS** TAB ON THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORA P. ADA
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhcgov.net
Tels: (670) 234-9447 / 234-6866 / 234-7670 • Fax: (670) 234-9021
EQUAL HOUSING LENDER

PUBLIC DISCLOSURE

NMHC hereby publicly discloses that on May 7, 2024, Joe Marie Keri T. Muna, an immediate family members of Marienza M. Sokau and Sweetielyn S. Lisua of NMHC, applied for assistance under the HOME Program.

Said applicant has been determined to be a member of a group or class of low-income persons intended to be beneficiaries of the assisted activity and is applying to receive generally the same benefits being made available to the group or class. Ms. Marienza M. Sokau and Ms. Sweetielyn S. Lisua are not and shall not be involved in the handling of this loan application.

NMHC discloses this possible conflict pursuant to 24 CFR 92.356 in order to allow any interested persons to comment before the application is considered for an exception under the applicable HOME Program conflict regulations. Any comments should be submitted to NMHC on or before May 23, 2024 .

Dated this 8th day of May , 2024.

/S/ ZENIE P. MAFNAS
Acting Corporate Director

GCA repeats as elementary MathCourt champ

Grace Christian Academy proudly fielded two teams (3rd-6th division) in the recent CNMI state MathCourt competition hosted at Saipan Southern High School.

Both teams excelled, with one securing a commendable third place and the other achieving the coveted gold medal. This marks the second consecutive year that GCA has clinched first place team in the elementary MathCourt state competition, a testament to the students' hard work and commitment.

The winning teams are composed of the following:

- Caleb Shin — first place team; first place 3rd grade division
- Cody Park — first place team
- Chloe Shin — first place team; Team CNMI member to represent the CNMI in Texas this summer in MathLeague competition; third place 6th grade division
- En Mei Huang — third place team
- Jenny Liang — third place team
- John Sanchez — third place team

GCA also extends deepest gratitude to coach and vice principal Susan Pajarillaga for her unwavering dedication, support, and guidance in preparing GCA students. Above all, GCA wishes to humbly acknowledge God's grace, as they recognize that all wisdom comes from Him and not from ourselves. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Grace Christian Academy won first and third place in the recent CNMI State MathCourt competition hosted at Saipan Southern High School.

TOP DRILL COMMANDER

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

FernCreek High School's Yesenia Babauta, whose father's family is from Saipan, was named the No. 1 drill commander in the Advanced Division of the at the National High School Drill Team Championships in Daytona, Florida.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Yesenia Babauta's Louisville, Kentucky school's JROTC Marine Corps team was also hailed national champions in the Armed Regulation Advanced Division of the same competition.

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

PROJECT NO. CPA-RFP-007-24
SUBMISSION DATE: MAY 22, 2024: 2:00 P.M.

"AIRPORT GROUNDS MAINTENANCE SERVICES LANDSIDE PROPERTY"

THE PROPOSAL PACKAGE IS AVAILABLE FOR PICK UP AT THE COMMONWONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY (CPA) ACCOUNTING OFFICE, 2ND FLOOR, DEPARTURE BUILDING, SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT BEGINNING APRIL 19, 2024. AN ADMINISTRATIVE FEE OF $100.00 SHALL BE PAID TO CPA BEFORE A BIDDER MAY OBTAIN THE BID PACKAGE. PAYMENTS SHALL BE IN CASH, CASHIER'S CHECK, OR CREDIT CARD.

PROPOSERS ARE TO SUBMIT ONE (1) ORIGINAL AND TWO (2) COPIES IN A SEALED ENVELOPE AND MARKED "AIRPORT GROUNDS MAINTENANCE SERVICES LANDSIDE PROPERTY (RFP-007-24)" TO THE OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, 2ND FLOOR, ARRIVAL BUILDING, SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ON OR BEFORE 2:00 P.M., MAY 22, 2024. BIDDERS SHALL TAKE INTO CONSIDERATIONS ALL CHARGES ASSOCIATED WITH THIS PROCUREMENT BEFORE FINALIZING ITS BID PRICE.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CPA PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION §40-50-1020 AND 1025 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CPA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS OR PROPOSALS, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF CPA.

LEO B. TUDELA
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

DATE: _____

DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES
CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID

ITB NO.: ITB24-DCCA/DYS/RT-42400093

SUBMISSION DATE: JUNE 11, 2024
TIME: 09:00 A.M.

"TO PROCURE AND INSTALL TYPHOON SHUTTERS AT THE ROTA DCCA DIVISION OF YOUTH SERVICES SINAPALO YOUTH CENTER"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED ON THE MUNIS VENDOR SELF SERVICE PORTAL (https://selfservice.dof.gov.mp/vss/) OR AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT BLDG NO. 1301, ANATAHAN DRIVE, CAPTIOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS ITB CAN BE MADE TO THE DIVISION OF YOUTH SERVICES BY MAY 31, 2024, TO MS. VIVIAN T. SABLAN VIA EMAIL AT vtsablan@dys.gov.mp

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ FRANCISCO M. RABAULIMAN
ACTING SECRETARY, DCCA

/S/ BRIEN S. NICHOLAS JR.
ACTING DIRECTOR, PS

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ., F0122
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC
POST OFFICE BOX 5222
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL: (670) 234-6547
FAX: (670) 234-9537
EMAIL: mwhitespn@yahoo.com
ATTORNEY FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION, Plaintiff, -v- The ESTATE of CARMEN T. ANDON and SAMUEL M. ANDON, Defendants.	CIVIL ACTION NO: 11-0042

NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on April 16, 2024, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property:

Legal description of the property:
Lot 011 G 308, situated in Kagman III, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 797 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Division of Lands and Surveys Official Cadastral Plat no. 011 G 06 dated December 9, 1993, Commonwealth Recorder's File no. 93-4414, dated December 16, 1993, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

Total area of the property:
797 square meters

Known encumbrances:
Mortgage in favor of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, Commonwealth Recorder's File no. 04-2542, and Real Estate Deed of Trust dated October 22, 2004, Commonwealth Recorder's File no. 04-2544. The net proceeds of sale will be applied towards satisfaction of the aforesaid encumbrances.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, May 24, 2024, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public. Copies of a title insurance report for the properties are available to any prospective bidder upon request.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 18th day of April, 2024.

/s/
MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

JESUS BASA PANGELINAN, Petitioner, vs. JULANEE PANYAYAO PANGELINAN, Respondent,	FCD-DI CIVIL ACTION NO. 24-0154 **SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION**

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED RESPONDENT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is on file with the Court, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Petitioner whose address is P.O. BOX 503767 SAIPAN MP 96950 as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file and answer in accordance with this Summons, Judgement by Default may be taken against you for relief in the Complaint.

Dated this 16th day of April, 2024.

/s/
Clerk of Court

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2nd Floor Arrival Bldg.
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950 |
Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
Website: www.cnmiports.com

INVITATION FOR BID
PROJECT NO. CPA-IFB-009-24

SUBMISSION DATE: MAY 29, 2024: 2:00 P.M.

"REMOVAL/DISPOSAL OF EXISTING REIL LIGHTS AND REPLACING WITH FOUR (4) BRAND NEW REIL LIGHTS"

THE BID PACKAGE IS AVAILABLE FOR PICK UP AT THE COMMONWONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY (CPA) ACCOUNTING OFFICE, 2ND FLOOR, DEPARTURE BUILDING, SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT BEGINNING APRIL 26, 2024. AN ADMINISTRATIVE FEE OF $100.00 SHALL BE PAID TO CPA BEFORE A BIDDER MAY OBTAIN THE BID PACKAGE. PAYMENTS SHALL BE IN CASH, CASHIER'S CHECK, OR CREDIT CARD.

BIDDERS ARE TO SUBMIT ONE (1) ORIGINAL AND TWO (2) COPIES IN A SEALED ENVELOPE AND MARKED "REMOVAL/DISPOSAL OF EXISTING REIL LIGHTS AND REPLACING WITH FOUR (4) BRAND NEW REIL LIGHTS **(IFB-008-24)**" TO THE OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, 2ND FLOOR, ARRIVAL BUILDING, SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ON OR BEFORE 2:00 P.M., MAY 29, 2024. BIDDERS SHALL TAKE INTO CONSIDERATIONS ALL CHARGES ASSOCIATED WITH THIS PROCUREMENT BEFORE FINALIZING ITS BID PRICE.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CPA PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION §40-50-1020 AND 1025 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CPA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF CPA.

LEO B. TUDELA
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

DATE: _____

DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES
CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID

ITB NO.: ITB24-BPD-42400094

SUBMISSION DATE: MAY 24, 2024
TIME: 09:00 A.M.

"OFFICE SPACE LEASE FOR THE BROADBAND POLICY AND DEVELOPMENT OFFICE, SAIPAN"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED ON THE MUNIS VENDOR SELF SERVICE PORTAL (https://selfservice.dof.gov.mp/vss/) OR AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT BLDG NO. 1301, ANATAHAN DRIVE, CAPTIOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS ITB CAN BE MADE TO THE BROADBAND POLICY & DEVELOPMENT BY MAY 21, 2024, TO MRS. MELIA JOHNSON VIA EMAIL AT me.johnson@dof.gov.mp or MRS. DARLENE DU BRALL VIA EMAIL AT d.dubrall@dof.gov.mp

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ GLEN HUNTER
SA, BPD

/S/ BRIEN S. NICHOLAS JR.
ACTING DIRECTOR, PS

PSS praises Tinian businesses, govt agency's partnership with co-op program

TINIAN—Eight private businesses and a government agency here were praised by the Public School System for its partnership with the Cooperative Education Program through its on-the-job internship program for high school students.

PSS' Cooperative Education Program has produced one of the single largest sources of trained-and workforce-ready high school graduates. This is part of PSS' overall plan for students to be college and career ready after high school.

For this school year, 19 high school students completed a semester of internship. They began "working" on Jan. 19 and ended last Wednesday.

Education Commissioner Dr. Lawrence F. Camacho and associate commissioner for Administrative Services Eric Magofna joined PSS Co-Op Program coordinator Brandon Nicholas, Tinian Junior Senior High School principal Liz Persinzki and Tinian High School Cooperative Education and Training teacher Patricia Aguon in celebrating this partnership Wednesday afternoon.

A School Year 2023-2024 Company Appreciation was held by PSS Cooperative Education last Wednesday for the eight private businesses-partners: Ace Hardware Tinian, Huang Shun Corporation, JC Café, Star Marianas Air, Think Tank Pacific Solutions, Tinian Diamond Hotel, Tinian Fuel Services, and Tinian Isla Community Health.

TJSHS' government partner for this school year is the Department of Public Safety-Tinian.

PSS

Tinian partners both from private businesses and the Tinian Department of Public Safety along with all the 19 student-interns of the PSS Cooperative Education Program and Tinian Junior Senior High School celebrate Wednesday afternoon the end of the internship program. They are joined by Education Commissioner Dr. Lawrence F. Camacho, associate commissioner for Administrative Services Eric Magofna, TJSHS principal Liz Persinzki, and Tinian Cooperative Education and Training teacher Patricia Aguon.

PSS

PSS Cooperative Education government partner is the Tinian Department of Public Safety. In this photo, the DPS-Tinian officials, joined by their student-interns, are presented with a plaque of recognition by Education Commissioner Dr. Lawrence F. Camacho, associate commissioner for Administrative Services Eric Magofna, and principal Liz Perzinski.

Successful interns

The successful student-interns are Keyanie Arriola, Elani Mae Borja, Bernadette Audrey Fleming, Cesllee Ciara Ayuyu John, Brian Toves King II, Tano-Donald S.N. King II, Esteven S.N. King, Jr. II, Rchie Mae Inguito Lagunay, Luina Dong Lowery, Draeshia Manibusan Manglona, Jesus Jose Pangelinan Manglona, Dennise Diana Miguel, Keith King Nabors, Jr.; Mefi KJ Sanchez Norech-Lazaro, Ethan Jermille Cruz Palacios, Marcial Ramos Patio, Jr., Redenald Dorado Patio, and Kelvin M. Shrestha.

In various recorded video presentations, these students expressed appreciation for the PSS co-op program and TJSHS, including their Co-Op training teacher, Patricia Aguon, for "helping us prepare" after high school.

These students are from 10th to 12th grade, and ages 16 and up.

Of the 19 students, six of them are NMI Department of Labor's Workforce innovation and Opportunity Act, which supports students' employment endeavor and is partners with the PSS co-op program, said Aguon.

'Value'

Camacho said the students' successful internship reflects the effectiveness of the program.

"The value of efficacy is felt by our students who experienced the program and carry forward these experiences to their classrooms. And in turn, shares them, and motivates their classmates and peers to follow their lead, and eventually, pursue higher education or career of their choice," Camacho told PSS Tinian co-op partners.

In praising the co-op program partners, Camacho said the school district will continue to work with all stakeholders to ensure that "our public school students, including our very own here in Tinian, will continue to be served at every opportunity."

"Each and every day, the Office of the Commissioner of Education and your Board of Education do everything that it can for all of our students. I am just excited to be among our private and public sector partners and thank you for allowing our students to network (within the workforce industry) and to mentor our students for what's for them."

The internship program provided by PSS to public school students through the co-op program is an "added benefit that increases the development in the learning" of the students, he noted.

"We will continue to work with you and with everyone to increase the value of (career-related programs) we provide our students. As industry partners, you are part of the learning process. You are part of the educational experience of our students," Camacho added.

'Thank you for your investment'

Nicholas said the Tinian private and public sector partnership is an investment for the future.

"Thank you for allowing our students to be a part of your workplace. Whether it was one of the stores that provides urgently needed goods for everyone in the community, a restaurant that serves up delectable goodies that Saipan people won't ever stop talking about, or offices that allow them to experience the wonderful world of administrative work or last but definitely not least, the vital lifeline that is the only provider of air transportation between Tinian and the rest of the world. Thank you," Nicholas said.

He added, "I think we need to be completely honest with each other and share that things have been hard on this side of the Marianas. When we read news about our current events, especially happening here on our islands, it is not incorrect to assume that those same challenges are somewhat tenfold here on Tinian. Despite the numerous setbacks and challenges that you all face here, you have still found time to invest in the future of our islands, and partner with us to help our students here in Tinian experience the world of work. Thank you partners, and we truly hope you consider partnering with us again in the future."

To the student-interns, Nicholas said, "To our students, we hope that you had as much fun as we did help you guys navigate the world of work along with your studies. Our time together was short and as much as we wish it could be longer, there's a whole world out there for you to experience, explore and enjoy. ***(PR)***

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM, OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
Tel: (670) 664-2371 | Fax: (670) 664-2408 | Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION TO BID
ITB24-GOV/CIP-42400086

SUBMISSION DATE: 9:00 AM ChST, JUNE 10, 2024

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE
TREASURY BUILDING RENOVATION

Governor Arnold I. Palacios and Lt. Governor David M. Apatang, through the Capital Improvement Program (CIP), are soliciting sealed bids for the *Department of Finance Treasury Building Renovation* in Capitol Hill, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI). This project will be funded by the 702 Covenant funding under the U.S. Department of Interior, Office of Insular Affairs.

The project package will be available in digital format only beginning **May 10, 2024** at the Capital Improvement Program Office, Office of the Governor, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building in Capitol Hill, Saipan, during regular working hours or online at Vendor Self Service (selfservice.dof.gov.mp/vss/Vendors/Vbids).

A Pre-Bid Conference will be held at the project site located in Capitol Hill, Saipan at **10:00 AM ChST, May 28, 2024.** Questions regarding this ITB may be submitted via email to Ms. Skalan Yamada at syamada.cip@gmail.com no later than **4:00 PM ChST, June 4, 2024.** All Questions & Answers will be shared with all prospective bidders.

Bidders located outside of the CNMI must fill out and submit the Notice of Intent to Bid Form to the Acting Director of Procurement Services via email (bidintent@dof.gov.mp) no later than **9:00 AM ChST, June 4, 2024.**

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS, AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ Arnold I. Palacios
Governor, CNMI

/S/ Brien Sers Nicholas Jr.
Acting Director, CNMI Procurement Services

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM, OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
Tel: (670) 664-2371| Fax: (670) 664-2408| Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION TO BID
ITB24-GOV/CIP-42400089

SUBMISSION DATE: 10:00 AM ChST, JUNE 5, 2024

DIVISION OF FINANCIAL SERVICES BUILDING
RENOVATION & IMPROVEMENTS BLDG #1303

Governor Arnold I. Palacios and Lt. Governor David M. Apatang, through the Capital Improvement Program (CIP), are soliciting sealed bids for the Division of Financial Service Building Renovation & Improvements in Capitol Hill, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI). This project will be funded by the 702 Covenant funding under the U.S. Department of Interior, Office of Insular Affairs.

The project package will be available in digital format only beginning **May 3, 2024** at the Capital Improvement Program Office, Office of the Governor, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building in Capitol Hill, Saipan, during regular working hours or online at Vendor Self-Service (selfservice.dof.gov.mp/vss/Vendors/Vbids).

A Pre-Bid Conference will be held at the project site located in Capitol Hill, Saipan at **10:00 AM ChST, May 21, 2024.** Questions regarding this ITB may be submitted via email to Ms. Nerissa B. Karakaya at nerissa.benavente@gov.mp no later than **4:00 PM ChST, May28, 2024**. All Questions & Answers will be shared with all prospective bidders.

Bidders located outside of the CNMI must fill out and submit the Notice of Intent to Bid Form to the Acting Director of Procurement Services via email (bidintent@dof.gov.mp) no later than **10:00 AM ChST, June 5, 2024.**

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS, AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ Arnold I. Palacios
Governor, CNMI

/S/ Brien S. Nicholas Jr.
Acting Director, CNMI Procurement Services

Robert Tenorio Torres
Attorney at Law
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 500730
Saipan, MP 96950

Tel: (670) 234-7859
Fax. (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Plaintiff Bank of Guam

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANK OF GUAM,	]	**Civil Action No. 15-0197**
Plaintiff,	]	**Civil Action No. 15-0193**
vs.	]	
STEVEN V. PANGELINAN,	]	**NOTICE OF AUCTION AND JUDICIAL SALE OF LOT NO. H-251-3**
Defendant.	]	

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to an Order Granting Writ of Execution issued in the above-titled action by the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands on December 11, 2023, to satisfy the amount found and adjudged due to the Bank of Guam, as prescribed in the Order Approving Plaintiff's Motion for Writ of Execution of Property. The undersigned counsel or his designee will sell at public auction to the highest bidder on July 30, 2024, at 10:00 a.m., at Robert T. Torres Law Office, the premises and real estate, lying and being on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, described in the said Writ of Execution, to wit:

Lot H-251-3 is 5,000 square meters and is located in As Lito-As Perdido, Saipan Municipality, CNMI. The property is designated as wetland conservation, as shown on the ArcGIS App Map and the National Wetlands Inventory Map of Saipan. The subject lies in a wetland area identified as a Freshwater Emergent Wetland (PEM1F).

1. Public Sale. The auction shall be open to the general public.
2. With Reserve. The auction sale shall be held with reserve.
3. Rights and duties of Auctioneer. Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, the auctioneer or his designee shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:
   a. withdraw the property listed for sale in the public announcement before the sale or before a bid for such property is accepted.
   b. to adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
   c. to reject any and all bids.
4. Bids. Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for the property listed in the notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the property. Bids may be entered in person or in writing to Robert T. Torres, Attorney at Law, Chalan Kiya, P.O. Box 500730, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 670-234-7859; Fax: 670-234-5749; Email: robertorres@rtlawgroup.com.
5. Deposit and Payment: A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, money order, or cashier's check. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the 10% deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title, and interest in any of the property will revert to the Plaintiff Bank of Guam.
6. Change of Terms. The auctioneer and the Plaintiff, Bank of Guam, reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct and enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by this clause, shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.
7. Inspection and No Warranty. Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property. Contact the Law Office of Robert T. Torres to schedule viewing and inspection times. The interests of the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute grounds for any claim, adjustment, or rescission by any buyer.

DATED this 16th day of April 2024.

/s/ Robert T. Torres
Robert T. Torres, Auctioneer

All for Mom
Mother's Day
SPECIAL

Heart-felt messages for Mom

by Nhorleen Bitco-Lilles
Special to Saipan Tribune

As Mother's Day approaches, it's a time to celebrate and honor the incredible women who have shaped our lives with their love, wisdom, and strength. From the nurturing embrace of a mother's arms to the unwavering support and guidance they provide, mothers play an irreplaceable role in our lives. Whether through biological, adoptive, or chosen bonds, Mother's Day serves as a reminder to express gratitude for the countless sacrifices and boundless affection mothers give every day. It's a day to cherish the moments, reminisce on cherished memories, and express heartfelt appreciation for the extraordinary woman we call Mom.

"Happy Mother's Day to the woman who gave us life and carried us through our most vulnerable times. Thank you for continuing to love and support us through difficult times. We pray that you continue to be in good health, so that you may continue to be an instrument to bring joy and bless others. To our first and last love, we wish you nothing but happiness and hope to continue to bring Honor to you." -Your Boys: Carlo , Kevin, Caleb, and Shun

"Thank you for all the sacrifices you have made Mom! You are the strongest woman I know, I love you." — Christian Bravo

"Happy Happy Mother's Day to our Mama Codog. Thankful for your unconditional Love and support, Mama. I am where I am today because of you and Papa's sacrifices and hard work. Me and KK loves you so much." Love — Bonita

"Happy Mother's Day Mom! To my first, best, & forever friend Because of you, I am who I am today You taught me how to Love and be kind Thank you for your sacrifices giving your unconditional Love Love you!! – Micaiah Corpuz

Happy Mother's Day to my supermom! Thank you for the unwavering love, support, and care you have given me and my family. No words can explain the gratitude we have for you. We miss and Love you very much! — Friendly Joy Pena

Our mother, who is turning 70 this month, is truly THE BEST MAMA and a wonderful woman! She's the one person whom we can ALWAYS lean on, the best example, our shoulder to cry on, the only one who truly listens, the one who never judges, never asks for anything, the one who cries with us, giver of hugs, and the one who always whispers prayers for each of her children and grandchildren. Even as adults, we need her more than ever — even just talking to her makes us feel better. To my FIRST most favorite person in the world, I Love you, and Happy Mother's Day! – N

Thank you mom for raising me to best of your abilities up till now, ive grown into a fine adult thanks to your never ending Love and devotion towards me and siblings. LOVE YOU ALWAYS! - Daniel Chlarson

"To the woman who has made sure we are provided for, cared for, and loved for, we want to say Happy Mother's Day. We appreciate all the things you do for us! Being a mother is not easy, especially to four. Your selfless-ness and strength are what inspires us every day to become who we are now. You've shown and continue to show your everlasting love towards us, and we are so blessed to have you as our mom. We love you so much and Happy Mother's Day!" Love, Noble Family

"Happy Mother's Day to the most wonderful woman in the world! This day is a bit tougher because you're far so away, but I know in God's perfect timing he'll bring us all together again. Thank you for all the sacrifices you've made "four" us—you get it kasi there's four of us, haha. I know being a single parent to four children was tough, but you persisted and raised beautiful, wonderful children. I love you so much, Mama. I hope you receive nothing but the best that this world can offer. I wish you a long life and good health. I still want to take care of you when you're old and gray na. LAB NA LAB KITA MA!" - King

"Happy Mother's Day to all the mothers, fathers, and everyone else who stands as a mother figure! But I would like to greet my dearest Mama a Happy Mother's Day! No words can express how much Khalil and I are so grateful and blessed to have you as our mom. Growing up, I always thought that my mom was so mean and that she was just so strict about everything and it wasn't until I no longer lived with her that I finally understood that she just wanted to protect me from the cruel ways of the world. But along with that, I learned to be more aware of my surroundings and how to be strong and independent. I will forever be thankful that she is one of the reasons why I am who I am today. Although we are just a few miles away from each other, the feeling of not being with the ones I Love on this special day leaves me with a melancholy feeling. But no matter what, we will be together again soon. Kaluguran Daka Mama sobra sobra" – Mikaella Cunanan

To my beloved Mommy, distance may separate us physically, but it can't diminish the love and gratitude I feel for you every day. Your unwavering support, boundless love, and endless sacrifices are the foundation of who I am today. Thank you for being my guiding light, my source of strength, and my forever inspiration. Though miles apart, our hearts are forever connected, and I carry your love with me always. Happy Mother's Day to the most amazing mom in the world. I Love you more than words can express! – Zoey

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HEATHER BROOK:

Juggling motherhood with passion and grace

By NHORLEEN BITCO-LILLES
Special to Saipan Tribune

Heather Brook, a pediatric nurse practitioner, shows us what it means to be a wonderful mom. With three kids to look after—twin boys ages 10 months, and a 3-year-old daughter, Heather's journey as a mom is full of love and hard work.

Even at the young age of 3, Heather already knew she wanted to be a mother. When her mom brought her baby sister home from the hospital, Heather was so disappointed that her mom didn't bring a baby home for her too.

For nearly eight years, Heather has been living on Saipan, where she works at the Children's Clinic at the Commonwealth Health Center. Even with her busy job, being a mom is the most important thing to her. "Being a mother is being a teacher, caregiver, leader, and comforter all at once, and it's a 24/7 forever job. It often means putting the needs of your children above your own," according to Heather.

Being a mom brings Heather so much happiness, especially in the little moments. Like when her kids look up to her with big eyes and say they love her, when they laugh together, or by simply watching her child sleep in her arms. These simple things mean the world to her.

It isn't always easy though, Heather had to raise her kids on her own, which was really tough, especially when her twins were born. But she never gave up. She worked hard every day to make sure her kids were happy and healthy. "My biggest challenge thus far has been raising my children as a solo parent by choice. Having twins was a huge surprise, and I never planned on having three children. Much less having three children under 3 years old, for the first seven months after the twins arrived. We have almost survived the first year, but it's constant multitasking to keep everyone cared for and give each child individualized love and attention, and feeling like there's never enough of me or enough time in the day. This is definitely the hardest thing I've ever done," she mused.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Heather Brook and her three children smile while posing for photo.

When asked how she balances the demands of motherhood with her personal goals and aspirations, Heather tries to have a little "me time" every couple of weeks. "Motherhood requires a lot of sacrifice and compromise, but I try to pick a few of the things that make me feel like me or things I love to do, and keep them in my life as much as I can. I try to take a few hours every couple of weeks to do some self-care, get a massage if I can, or get out for a bike ride with friends," according to her.

Heather believes that good communication and love are key to a strong family. Even though her kids are still young, she thinks it's important to say sorry when she makes a mistake. That's how they learn to be kind and understanding. For her, parents are not perfect and it's OK for the children to know that.

She wants her kids to grow up knowing the importance of family and being kind to others. That's why she spends so much time with them, reading stories, and teaching them

See JUGGLING on Page 18

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Heather and her three little children participating in the color run together.

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Michelle Melchor Olita smiles while posing for a photo with five out of her six children.

MICHELLE MELCHOR OLITA:

Balancing motherhood, community service, and personal goals

By NHORLEEN BITCO-LILLES
Special to Saipan Tribune

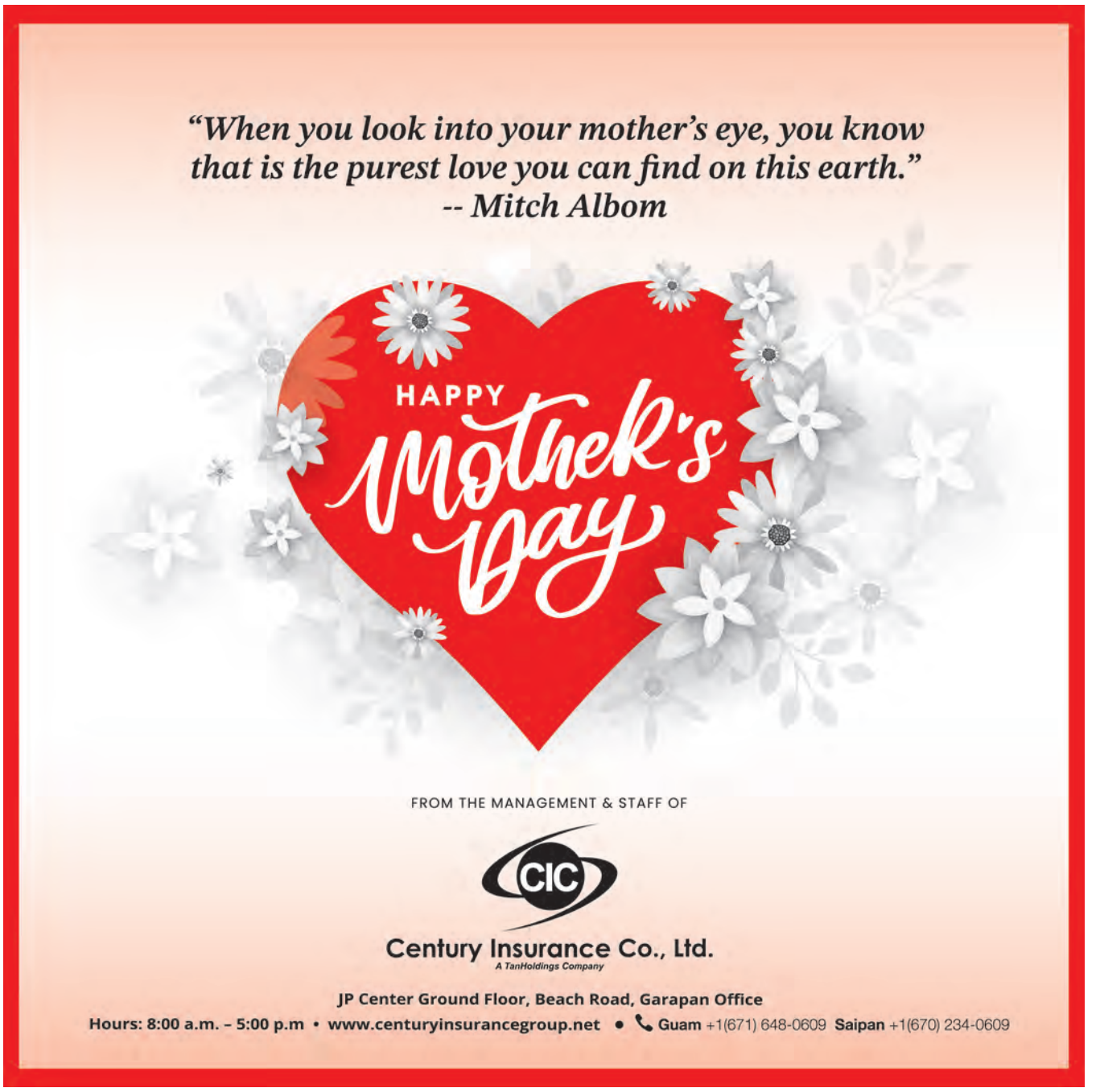
Saipan is home to many remarkable individuals, and among them is Michelle Melchor Olita, who describes herself as a devoted mother of six and a mother to the community. At 41 years old, Michelle's journey as a mother is intertwined with her active involvement in serving others as well.

Besides taking care of her kids, she's passionate about promoting health and wellness. Michelle spends her free time organizing activities to help people stay healthy, like exercise classes. She believes it's important to help everyone, no matter their financial status. So, she volunteers to fight common health problems like diabetes and cancer.

As a licensed fitness instructor, Michelle leads free Zumba classes, making them accessible not only to the Saipan community but also to Tinian. Her commitment to promoting health and wellness extends beyond her role as a fitness instructor; Michelle is also a co-founder of Xtreme Fitness 670, a non-profit organization dedicated to fostering a healthier community through physical activity.

See BALANCING on Page 17

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Michelle Melchor Olita stretches during one of her Zumba classes.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-- Mitch Albom
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CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

A collage of photos showing Patty Aguon-Cruz and her grown children Bobby and Bonnie spending quality time together.

PATTY AGUON-CRUZ:

Motherhood amidst adversity

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Motherhood, in itself, is a challenge as a mother is basically tasked with guiding another life through the struggles they may face on their journey into adulthood (and possibly even beyond). But what happens when a mother is faced with a life-threatening adversity where she herself needs guidance? Patty Aguon-Cruz shares her triumphs as both a mother of two and a cancer survivor.

Aguon-Cruz, the mother of Dr. Bobby Cruz and Bonny Lynn Cruz Grow, is a proud Chamorro mother and cancer survivor.

She shares that to her, being a mother means everything.

"It is the title I am most proud of. You are holding the universe in your arms, and you need to care for, love, support, and be there for your children. Being a mother is my No. 1 priority. And my two kids, no matter how old or how successful and independent they become, will always be my top priorities no matter what," she shares.

Aguon-Cruz shares insight into the moment she held her children in her arms for the first time.

"When Bobby and Bonny were placed into my arms as newborns, it felt like the sun's warmth overcame me, and every worry in the world melted away. It was the warmest and most blessed feeling of my life," she said.

The most rewarding part of being a mother, she shares, was witnessing her children's many "firsts."

"Witnessing Bobby and Bonny take their first steps, say their first words, and grow into the wonderful individuals they are today fills my heart with an indescribable sense of fulfillment. All those activities we've shared and countless memories we've made and to see them go from babies to good, strong, and brave people who care about others is the most rewarding feeling as a mom. Their story is my story, too, so I am very, very proud," she said.

Surviving cancer

Aguon-Cruz, a large B cell lymphoma cancer survivor, shared that as a mother diagnosed with cancer, one of her greatest struggles was not being able to care for her children. Fortunately, with God's help, she survived.

"When I was diagnosed with large B cell lymphoma, I was bedridden, and had to fight to stay alive, every day became a testament to the power of faith and perseverance. As a mother, you want to be around to keep caring for your kids, to see them grow and be a part of their lives," she said.

She said that the journey, although rough, tested her strength and deepened her appreciation for the precious moments spent with her children.

"Not everyone gets the blessing of life I have been given, but the lesson I learned was to love deeper, have faith in all the times, and not take a moment for granted. Every day, I woke up thanking God for every blessing, for the strength to tackle each issue cancer throws at me with a positive mindset and ready to beat it. My greatest reward was the support from my kids, family, and friends. God's been my rock," she said.

Today, Aguon-Cruz is able to continue to guide her children and encourages them to celebrate life, success, to be happy, healthy, and stay faithful to themselves.

"[I encourage my children to] pursue their dreams with God by their side. I also encourage them to stay true to themselves and appreciate the blessing that they are. They do not have to be like anyone else because they are perfect as they are, and I am the first to love and care for them as they grow and change. Even when they stumble, they can count on me to be there to help them up and help them remember their worth. I want them to always be true to themselves and to continuously pursue their dreams with God by their side," she said.

When asked how she maintains communication with her children even though they are older now and have their own lives, Aguon-Cruz said she takes advantage of family dinners to spontaneous adventures exploring nature to have heart-to-heart conversations with them.

"Every moment shared with Bobby and Bonny strengthens our bond and strengthens our connection. I keep it open with my kids. No holding back. They've been my doctors, nurses, coaches, you name it, as we communicate openly. It's not always easy, especially in our culture, but as a mother, I learned that it is OK to learn from your kids, too. It's OK to allow them to love you and teach you too. I know that the example and sacrifice I have set for unconditional love is something that both Bobby and Bonny will never doubt," she said.

As for values, Aguon-Cruz said she hopes to instill the importance of family, kindness, resilience, and gratitude in her children.

"I want them to embrace life's challenges with courage and compassion, knowing they will always have my unconditional love and support no matter what," she adds.

See ADVERSITY on Page 18

"A mother's love for her child is like nothing else in the world. It knows no law, no pity. It dares all things."
-- Agatha Christie
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THE PERFECT Mother's Day GIFT GUIDE

BY NHORLEEN BITCO-LILLES
SPECIAL TO SAIPAN TRIBUNE

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Give Mom the gift of the perfect pair of shoes! Get them at 25% off at the **JOETEN SHOPPING CENTER'S** 3-day Mother's Day Sale from Fri - Sun, May 10 - 12!
Call (670) 234-6446/48

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Toast to Mom's love and warmth this Mother's Day with these exquisite selection of wines! Raise a glass and celebrate the wonderful woman who fills our lives with so much love and care. Brought to you by **MARPAC INC.**

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Call (670) 488-2273 or visit docomopacific.com

TREAT HER TO LUNCH AND A DAY OF FUN

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Call (670) 234-7976

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Make Mom feel cherished this Mother's Day with a luxurious massage experience from **HANA HEALTH MASSAGE**. It's the perfect way to say 'thank you' for all she does. Spoil her with Body Oil Massage, Foot Massage, Cupping Therapy & Sauna which is recommended to heal back pain, neck pain, insomia, shoulder pains and head pains. Open from 10:00am - 12:00am!
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"Celebrating you on Mother's Day!
A mother is not a person to lean on but a person to make leaning unnecessary."
– Dorothy Canfield Fisher

Happy Mother's Day

From the management and staff of McDonald's of Saipan

STORE HOURS:

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Mother's Day
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Every mother has a heart of gold, let's cherish this special occasion and give them a sparkle of choice with jewelry that will make heads turn.
Unforgettable Designs. Unmatched Sparkle.
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NEXT TO TSL PLAZA ACROSS THE HUT

MILAGROS M. SONGCUAN

'Motherhood means sacrifice, patience, and fear in God'

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Milagros Songcuan and her family.

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

As a God-fearing woman, Green Meadow School principal Milagros M. Songcuan says the most important values she's instilled in her children is faith and fear in God and to see her children practicing these values in their own lives, Songcuan says, is the most rewarding part of motherhood.

Songcuan, the mother of Glenn and Lizelle Songcuan, has called Saipan her home for over 40 years.

"I came to Saipan in 1983 so Saipan has been my home for over 40 years. I'm an accountant by profession and I'm the present principal of Green Meadow School, a position I've held for 24 years," she said.

See PATIENCE on Page 17

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Great Harvest Bread Co.
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Happy Mother's Day!
Your choice of Flavor:
• Taro Macapuno Cake
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$36.95

PATIENCE

From page 16

To her, motherhood means sacrifice, selflessness, patience, love, strength, fear in God, and discipline.

"Mothers play a critical role in families. They are teachers and trainers as it says in the bible in Proverbs 22: "Train a child in the way he should go and even when he grows old, he will not depart from it."

Songcuan shares that for so long, she dreamt of having children. Then, in February 1986, she found out she was pregnant.

"I was so overjoyed to learn that I was going to become a mother. Then, in November 1987, God gifted me my first child and it was the moment I felt fulfilled as I was finally a mother," she shared.

In her over 30 years of motherhood, Songcuan shares that the most rewarding aspect is seeing that her children have kept the values she's instilled in them up to adulthood.

"Raising my children, I always prayed and asked God for wisdom and strength. Now, the most reward aspect of being a mother is seeing my children happy, healthy, successful, and to see that they've kept the values I've taught them like being respectful, loving, obedient, God-fearing individuals," she said.

Other values Songcuan and her husband have instilled in their children are the value of education and the value of supporting their community.

In her life, Songcuan said she faced many challenges but the biggest of them all was her near-death experience.

"The biggest challenge I faced as a mother was when I got into an accident back in 2002 where I almost died. I fought for my life because I knew my children need me. In that moment, I knew God was with me, protected me, and saved me," she said.

Today, Songcuan is able to continue to communicate with her children even though they've both grown up and are both living their own lives.

"From an early age, I encouraged my children to be open with us and to always make sure we are available for them and to practice patience (especially when they make mistakes). We always encourage them to pray as prayer will give them wisdom and guidance," she said.

Advice

As a mother for over 30 years, Songcuan's advice to new mothers is to make the effort to understand their children.

"Try and be your child's best friend while also being a great example of excellence. Be an example of humbleness, respect, while trying to get on their level to understand them," she said.

Songcuan adds that taking care of one's health is equally as important.

"My motto is 'Health is Wealth' and my health is my priority so I can live longer to serve my family. I get regular checkup to ensure that I don't have severe sicknesses and I also make sure I feel pretty by going to the salon, massage, etc. Most importantly, take care of your spiritual health. I go to church and thank God every day. That's also what we always tell our kids, to pray and be thankful to God everyday," she said.

Lastly, Songcuan advices new parents to ensure that they equip their children with the tools they need for adulthood while also supporting their God-given talents.

"Home is our children's first school and as parents, we are their first teachers. The parent's job is to equip children with the tools and experience they will need on their journey to adulthood. With their God-given talents, skills, and abilities; we should support them," she said.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Milagros Songcuan smiles while taking a photo in Baguio, Philippines.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Michelle Melchor Olita performs with her group members during one of her Zumba sessions.

BALANCING

From page 13

According to Michelle, "Due to the increasing numbers of citizens here in the CNMI who are suffering from diabetes, cancer, and other health issues, I believe that proper and regular exercise can be beneficial."

"Every weekday, free Zumba classes are held at the Saipan Mayor's Office parking lot, (a) part of Mayor [Ramon Basa] RB Camacho's initiative to promote health and wellness," she adds. On weekends, Michelle also leads classes on Tinian as part of the Anti-Tobacco Wellness program. She holds licenses in Zumba Basic, Zumba Kids and Kids Jr., Zumba Gold (for ages 50 and above), Zumba Gold Toning, Zumba Toning, Zumba Steps, Aqua Zumba, Circle Mobility, and Zumba Plate.

In addition to her community involvement, Michelle is actively engaged in the Saipan Beacon Lions Club, further demonstrating her dedication to service and giving back.

When asked about motherhood, Michelle expresses deep gratitude for the privilege and responsibility it entails. For her, being a mother means providing unconditional love, making endless sacrifices, and offering unwavering support to her children. Witnessing her children grow into strong, compassionate individuals gives her joy and fulfillment.

Balancing the demands of

See BALANCING on Page 20

Mother's Day Brunch
Special Promotion
11:00-14:00 Sunday, May 12, 2024
All mothers can enjoy and relax at waterpark for FREE!
$45.00 / ADULT $25.00 / CHILD (4-11years)
Other guest may just Add $5/person for waterpark.
All special rates are not applicable with other promotions and banquets.
Valid CNMI ID required.
This Mothers day!
Celebrate at the most extravagant Brunch Buffet.
Come and enjoy our mouthwatering 6 varieties of live stations,
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In your arms, you held us. Little did we know
but you have given us the greatest treasure
that will never fade in our heart and that's your
love.
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Mother's
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ADVERSITY

From page 14

Advice

As a mother to now two grown adults, Aguon-Cruz advices new mothers to cherish every moment, even the hard times.

"Time passes so fast, and each moment can be precious if you are present. Trust your instincts and remember that you are stronger than you know. Also, take good care of yourself. Savor every second with your kids. Stay positive and be a role model to the best of your ability. You don't need to be perfect. They will know your heart and your intentions. Make beautiful memories, always keep God close in your hearts, and have faith in your children always," she said.

In addition, Aguon-Cruz also encourages mothers to stay healthy for their children.

"Daily workouts are a must. You must care for your mind and body to be healthy enough to continue loving and caring for your children. I believe in pampering myself with a massage, mani-pedi, facial—oh, and plenty of family time, too. Everyone is different but make time to do what makes you feel healthy and happy so you can be healthy and happy for your kids," she said.

JUGGLING

From page 12

new things. "I really hope to pass on a very strong value for family and facilitate all my children to not only be close with me as their mother but also with each other as siblings, both now and into adulthood. And an emphasis on the importance of showing kindness and having compassion for others, above smarts, beauty, or athletics."

To new moms, Heather says, "In my daily work as a pediatric nurse practitioner, I get to work with a lot of new parents. First, I would say trust yourself and your instincts. It's okay to make mistakes, you will be constantly learning as you go. You are made to do this, and there is no better mother for your child than you! Second, it goes so fast. Every stage can feel like an eternity when you are in it (the sleepless newborn nights, the toddler tantrums), but you will look back and it will feel like a blink of an eye. Savor those moments because they will never be as little as they are today."

"The only love that I really believe in
is a mother's love for her children."
— Karl Lagerfeld
Happy Mother's Day
From the management and staff of
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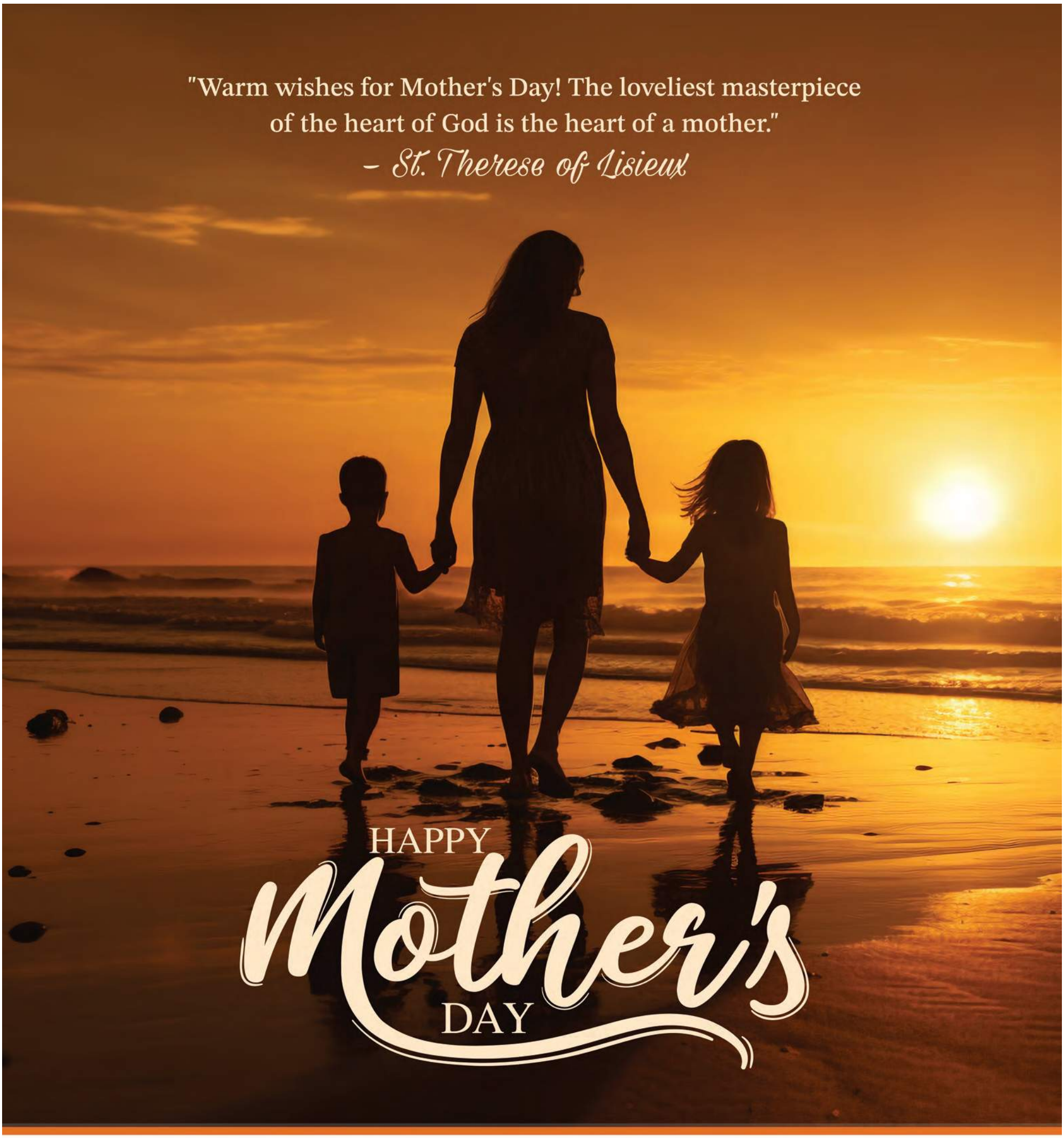

"Warm wishes for Mother's Day! The loveliest masterpiece
of the heart of God is the heart of a mother."
– St. Therese of Lisieux
HAPPY
Mother's
DAY

From the management and staff of

Tan Holdings

HEALTH IS WEALTH

Tan Siu Lin Foundation

A mom's real wish

By NHORLEEN BITCO-LILLES
Special to Saipan Tribune

Amidst the flurry of Mother's Day gifts and sweet gestures, one wonders what do moms truly wish for? Beyond the wrapped presents and bouquets of flowers lies a deeper longing, one that transcends material offerings. It's not about lavish surprises or extravagant gestures; rather, it's about the intangible, the moments that resonate long after the day has passed.

"I wish for my child to always be happy," according to Cathy of Garapan. "I want them to be proud of themselves, that's why we are there for them and guiding them all the time so they can become a better person."

In the quiet moments between chaos, moms cherish the gift of time—time spent with their loved ones, creating memories that endure. Whether it's a heartfelt conversation after a long day's work, a leisurely stroll in the park or by the beachside, or laughter and giggles between hugs and kisses before going to bed, these moments of connection hold the most value.

Like Ken of Finasisu who simply wishes to spend time with her daughter, her mom, and her family.

For Cassy of Chinatown, her wish is to always be with her kids, and her grandkids and see them grow and graduate. For her, it's the best wish a mom can have. "I don't expect gifts, I just want to be with my family."

Young mom holding her baby in the air. FREEPIK.COM

"Every day I pray for my children to be always healthy and safe, their well-being is always in my mind and top priority. But I also pray that God keeps me well and healthy too so that I can continue to take care of them, be there for them, and make sure that they are loved and cared for the way they should be," said Li of Dandan

For other moms, however, their wish is simple yet profound: to be truly seen and appreciated for all they do. They don't seek grand displays of gratitude; rather, moms crave genuine recognition of the countless acts of love and sacrifices they make every day.

Above all, moms desire understanding and support, a reassurance that they're not alone in their journey. They long for empathy, a listening ear, and a shoulder to lean on when the weight of motherhood feels overwhelming.

"Moms don't expect thank yous, but when we do receive them and that we are appreciated, it makes our heart fuller and it energizes us all the more," said Grace of Chalan Kanoa

As Mother's Day approaches, let us remember that the greatest gift we can give to moms is not found in a store. It's found in our words, our actions, and our unwavering love. So, this year, let's honor moms not just with presents, but with presence—the greatest gift of all.

FREEPIK.COM
LIttle girl presenting flowers to her mother.

BALANCING

From page 17

motherhood with personal goals and aspirations is no small feat, but Michelle navigates this challenge with resilience and determination. She prioritizes her children's needs while also making time for herself to pursue her passions and dreams. By involving her children in her activities and ensuring she practices self-care, Michelle strives to achieve a harmonious balance that benefits both her family and herself. "As a mother, it was a challenge to balance the responsibilities of raising children while also being actively involved in community service and running a non-profit organization. By seeking support from my family, friends, and community members, I was able to overcome this challenge. By managing my responsibilities more efficiently, I was able to do so by delegating tasks, prioritizing effectively, and taking care of myself," said Michelle.

When asked about what legacy she hopes to pass on to her children, Michelle emphasizes the values of compassion, empathy, service, and resilience. By instilling these values in her children, she believes they will make positive contributions to society and strive to make the world a better place. "I want them to understand the importance of kindness, helping others, pursuing their dreams with determination, and treating everyone with respect. Instilling these values into them will help me shape them into individuals who have a positive impact on the world around them," she said.

To new mothers or mothers-to-be, Michelle also offers words of wisdom:

"My advice for new mothers or mothers-to-be is to take the journey of motherhood with patience and love, seek support when necessary, and rely on your intuition. Remember that it's okay to ask for help and take time for yourself. Take time to cherish the moments with your children and embrace the journey of motherhood with patience and love."

"Mother's love is peace. It need not be acquired, it need not be deserved."
— Erich Fromm

HAPPY
Mother's Day

From the management and staff of

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Oh My Grill Int'l Food Challenge at Taste to feature Korean, Japanese celebrity eaters

Two lbs. of boneless barbecue chicken, two 8-ounce barbecue steaks, six pieces of barbecue pork spareribs, eight strips of barbecue pork belly, four barbecue hot links sausage, 2 lbs. of red rice, 2 lbs. of macaroni salad, 2 lbs. of papaya coco…and one hour to finish it first.

This Saturday, May 11, the 25th Annual Taste of The Marianas International Food Festival will feature the Oh My Grill International Food Challenge, pitting local and international competitors against each other and the clock in a bid to finish an entire Marianas-style BBQ platter within one hour. Winner takes all with the first finisher walking away with $1,000 cash.

Professional food fighter Sachiyo Masubuchi, a perennial champion of "Taste" food challenges several times in the past, returns to take on professional eater Sang Hyuk Kwon of Korea. Defending the home turf will be Jeremy Rother, Bob Liu, and Michael Ma. Rother downed five footlongs in an hour in last Saturday's Subway Sandwich Challenge, with Liu and Ma following in second and third place, respectively.

Taste of The Marianas will be held every Saturday evening during May Marianas Tourism Month at American Memorial Park in the main tourist district of downtown Garapan. The festival features dishes from 29 local hotels and restaurants, live entertainment, food eating competitions, cooking contests, arts and crafts sales, and more.

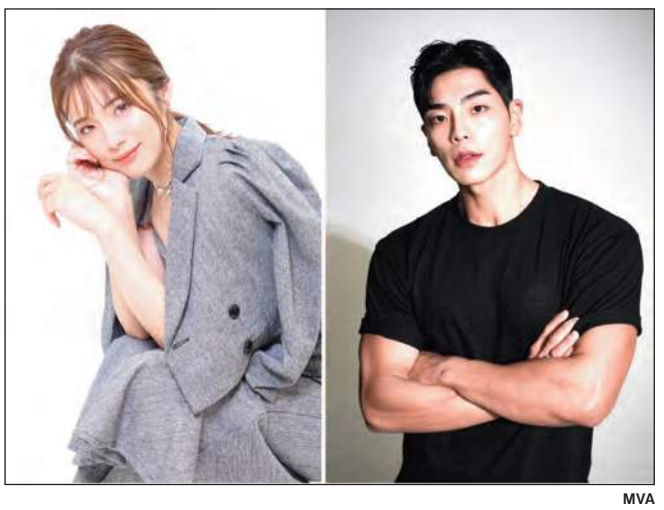
Entertainment for the night on the main stage includes Big Jay at 5pm, Tipiyeew Bwibwis at 5:30pm, Marianas High School Micronesian Cultural Club at 6pm, Te Kanahau Nui at 6:30pm, Oh My Grill International Food Challenge at 7pm, Helen Kim at 8pm, Profound Bandits at 8:15pm, Black Sands at 8:30pm, Revolutionaries at 9pm, and Tattoo at 9:30pm.

MVA

Acting governor David M. Apatang welcomes festivalgoers to the 25th Annual Taste of The Marianas International Food Festival on May 4, 2024. The festival will be held every Saturday evening during May Marianas Tourism Month at American Memorial Park, featuring food and drinks, live entertainment, nightly contests, arts and crafts, and more.

MVA

Jeremy Rother comes in right under the clock to finish five footlongs in under one hour during the Subway Sandwich Challenge at the 25th Annual Taste of The Marianas International Food Festival on May 4, 2024.



MVA

Professional eaters Sachiyo Masubuchi, left, of Japan and Sang Hyuk Kwon of South Korea will face off against local competitors in the Oh My Grill International Food Challenge at the 25th Annual Taste of The Marianas International Food Festival on May 4, 2024. The one-hour contest starts at 7pm at the American Memorial Park.

For those wanting a behind-the-scenes look into Marianas food prep, a cooking demonstration and sampling of "potu"—a sweet rice steamed bun—will be held on the secondary stage from 5:30pm to 7pm and "bunuelos"—similar to a deep fried donut—from 8pm to 9:30pm. Also, the Tinian Mayor's Office will demonstrate the roasting of a whole cow, with free samples while supplies last.

"The Taste of The Marianas just keeps getting better and better. With our two celebrity food fighters competing against three of our top Subway Sandwich Challenge contestants, we expect this Saturday to be an extraordinary show, hands down," said Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Christopher A. Concepcion. "Food challenges have become increasingly popular around the world, and having influencers from our two largest source markets of Korea and Japan competing head-to-head at the Taste only adds to our appeal as a gourmet destination. We extend our thanks to our partners at Oh My Grill for their support of this competition and look forward to an amazing night of fun and entertainment."

MVA

Mark McDonald and other contestants tackle five footlongs during the Subway Sandwich Challenge at the 25th Annual Taste of The Marianas International Food Festival on May 4, 2024.

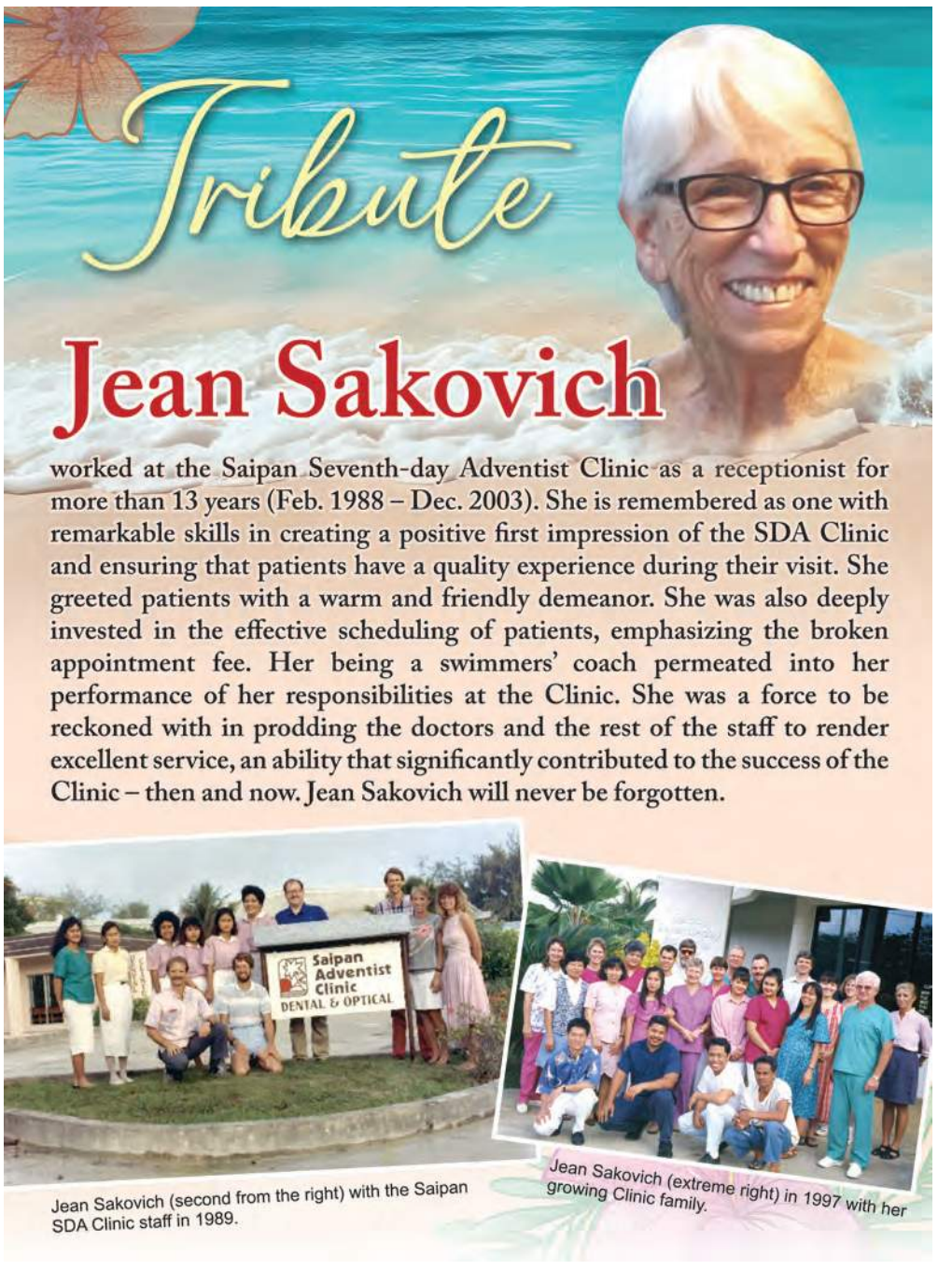
Food and drink vendors accept credit/debit cards. Tokens are also accepted and may be purchased at the festival or the Marianas Visitors Authority office at 3366 Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, from 1pm to 4pm Monday through Friday (except holidays). Cash transactions with vendors is prohibited.

Registration is still open for the Marianas Chef Competition on May 18. The cook-off will challenge 10 chefs to prepare the best beef rib eye steak dish within an hour, incorporating all local produce provided in a mystery box. Rules and registration forms are available at https://www.mymarianas.com/taste-of-the-marianas-2024/ and at the MVA offices in Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. The HANMI-NMTech Pastry Chef Competition will be held on May 25. All contests start at 7 p.m.

This year's festival eateries will include 38 Mitsubachi, Cup Bab Korean Restaurant, Ben-Ki, Yaya's Baked Goods, CK Smokehouse and Salad, Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan, Fork and Spoon, Great Harvest Bread Co., Herman's Modern Bakery, Lanlan Tea House, Island Grindz, Java Joe's, Kanto 10, Kinpachi, Loco & Taco, Tupu Cane Juice, New Matty's BBQ, Oh My Grill, Surf Club, T-Bar, The Hut, Vi- Lyn's BBQ, Saipan World Resort, Ever Trust 123 Food, Aqua Resort Club, Pacific Islands Club and Coral Ocean Resort Saipan, MARPAC, Napu Brewing, and WSTCO.

Festival Gold Sponsors are American Memorial Park, Bridge Capital LLC and Dave Electronics Center. Silver Sponsors are Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan, EST Rental, IT&E, HANMI, Jonny's Bar and Grill, M&C LLC, Lanlan Tea House, Subway, Coca-Cola, and Foremost.

For more information, contact MVA Community Projects specialist Ray Villagomez at rvillagomez@mymarians.com or at (670) 664-3200. ***(PR)***


Tribute
Jean Sakovich
worked at the Saipan Seventh-day Adventist Clinic as a receptionist for more than 13 years (Feb. 1988 – Dec. 2003). She is remembered as one with remarkable skills in creating a positive first impression of the SDA Clinic and ensuring that patients have a quality experience during their visit. She greeted patients with a warm and friendly demeanor. She was also deeply invested in the effective scheduling of patients, emphasizing the broken appointment fee. Her being a swimmers' coach permeated into her performance of her responsibilities at the Clinic. She was a force to be reckoned with in prodding the doctors and the rest of the staff to render excellent service, an ability that significantly contributed to the success of the Clinic – then and now. Jean Sakovich will never be forgotten.
Saipan Adventist Clinic
DENTAL & OPTICAL
Jean Sakovich (second from the right) with the Saipan SDA Clinic staff in 1989.
Jean Sakovich (extreme right) in 1997 with her growing Clinic family.

SUPREME COURT
THE JUDICIARY
REPUBLIC OF PALAU

P.O. Box 248 Koror, Palau 96940
Telephone: Koror : (680) 488-2607/4979/3331 or
Capitol: (680) 767-2330/2482/2607 • Facsimile: Koror (680) 488-1597 or
Capitol: (680) 767-2606
E-mail address: judiciary@palausupremecourt.net

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the General Public that the Trial Division of the Palau Supreme Court is currently scheduling hearings on pending land claims in Ngarchelong, Palau. The cases with pending claims are as follows:

Civil Action No. 23-114
Civil Action No. 23-120
Civil Action No. 23-115
Civil Action No. 23-121
Civil Action No. 23-116
Civil Action No. 23-122
Civil Action No. 23-117
Civil Action No. 23-123
Civil Action No. 23-118
Civil Action No. 23-124
Civil Action No. 23-119

The following individuals are listed as Claimants:

- **Susana Flores Delos Reyes aka Susana Delos Reyes Mendiola**
- **Lawrence J. Aflague, Jr.**
- **Eugenia Flores James aka Eugenia James Aflague**
- **Gabriel Borja**
- **Frank Flores**
- **Frederica Flores Santos**
- **Maccarthy John Borja**
- **Atanacio Borja**
- **Pedro Tudela Borja, Jr.**
- **Teresa D. Laguana**

These Claimants or their children, heirs, descendants, or other authorized representatives are requested to contact the Clerk of Courts to update their contact information. This is necessary to facilitate calendaring of hearings and addressing any logistical arrangements, such as attending hearings virtually through remote court proceedings if they are unable to attend in person.

Allison Idip Sengebau
Palau Supreme Court
P.O. Box 248
Koror, Palau 96940
Tel: (680)488-2607
Mobile: (680) 775-4914
asengebau@palausupremecourt.net

COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-24-012

SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF HEAVY-DUTY VEHICLES

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids for the supply and delivery of heavy-duty vehicles for its fleet in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This project is funded from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA).

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked ***"CUC-IFB-24-012, Supply and Delivery of Heavy-Duty Vehicles"*** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, ***no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on June 3, 2024*** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before submission deadline. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification should be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid or supply under the contract. The IFB does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the bid under this request, or to procure or contract for goods. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on May 13, 2024** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC's Purchasing Administrator, via email manny.sablan@cucgov.org with copies to Steven Rodriguez, CUC's Water/Wastewater Division Manager via email at rodolfo.rodriguez@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, CUC's Senior Administrative Technician at marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in the said bids, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids submitted shall become the property of CUC.

BETTINA G. TERLAJE
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Celebrate Mother's Day weekend with 2nd 'Mom Games' at Micronesia Mall

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Participants race to put diapers on babies at Micronesia Mall's inaugural "Mom Games" last year.

Micronesia Mall will be holding their 2nd Annual "Mom Games" event on Saturday, May 11, 2024 from 3pm to 5pm at the Micronesia Mall Center Court.

They're inviting all mothers and their families for an afternoon filled with fun competitions and laughter—just in time for Mother's Day! Participants can look forward to a variety of mom-themed games including the Super Mom Sprint and Bring Me Game, along with many other surprises.

Register for free on the day of the event in the Center Court for a chance to win great prizes from MM Theatres, Burger King, Vince Jewelers, Baby&Me, IT&E, Tabaquera Gifts, Obsessed, Sugar Cookie, Precious Collection, Ediya Coffee, BENCH/, Naturally Nourished, Tiger Sugar, and Jeans Warehouse. Prizes include jewelry, gift certificates, gift baskets, movie dates, and electronics.

There will also be giveaways throughout the event for attendees.

» Win jewelry, movie dates, electronics, gift certificates, and more

Additionally, all participants will be automatically entered into a grand prize draw for an 18KW Diamond Infinity Necklace, valued at $750, courtesy of Vince Jewelers. The lucky winner will be announced at the conclusion of the event.

"Mother's Day is a time to celebrate all mothers, of all ages. We hope that the community will join us in these fun activities on Saturday to extend Mother's Day into a weekend-long appreciation for all moms. Bring your mom to Micronesia Mall for our Mother's Day weekend event and experience the fun side of mom!" said Sam Ortiz, Micronesia Mall general manager.

Participants can also explore offerings from various exhibitors at the event. American Bakery, located on the 2nd floor of Concourse 3 of Micronesia Mall, will showcase their range of baked goods, ideal for special occasions. Additionally, Baby&Me and Obsessed will display their products. Baby&Me, located in Concourse 1, sells essential baby products for expectant and new mothers. Located on the 1st floor of Concourse 3, Obsessed sells baby accessories, clothing, and other baby necessities.

Micronesia Mall encourages all to take part in this event. It's a perfect opportunity to possibly win a Mother's Day gift while enjoying the festivities. Attendees can also explore the various sales and promotions from mall shops throughout the Mother's Day weekend.

"Don't miss out on this fantastic community event dedicated to celebrating moms. We hope to see you there!" added Ortiz.

For the latest updates on Micronesia Mall's upcoming events and promotions, visit Micronesia Mall's website, Facebook, Instagram, and TikTok. ***(PR)***

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2nd Floor Arrival Bldg.
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950 |
Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
Website: www.cnmiports.com

INVITATION FOR BID
PROJECT NO. CPA-IFB-008-24

SUBMISSION DATE: MAY 24, 2024: 2:00 P.M.

"60 MONTH LEASE OF FIVE (5) ALL-IN ONE MULTIFUNCTION PRINTER/COPIER MACHINES"

THE BID PACKAGE IS AVAILABLE FOR PICK UP AT THE COMMONWONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY (CPA) ACCOUNTING OFFICE, 2ND FLOOR, DEPARTURE BUILDING, SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT BEGINNING APRIL 19, 2024. AN ADMINISTRATIVE FEE OF $100.00 SHALL BE PAID TO CPA BEFORE A BIDDER MAY OBTAIN THE BID PACKAGE. PAYMENTS SHALL BE IN CASH, CASHIER'S CHECK, OR CREDIT CARD.

BIDDERS ARE TO SUBMIT ONE (1) ORIGINAL AND TWO (2) COPIES IN A SEALED ENVELOPE AND MARKED "60-MONTH LEASE OF FIVE (5) ALL-IN-ONE MULTIFUNCTION PRINTER/COPIER MACHINES (IFB-008-24)" TO THE OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, 2ND FLOOR, ARRIVAL BUILDING, SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ON OR BEFORE 2:00 P.M., MAY 24, 2024. BIDDERS SHALL TAKE INTO CONSIDERATIONS ALL CHARGES ASSOCIATED WITH THIS PROCUREMENT BEFORE FINALIZING ITS BID PRICE.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CPA PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION §40-50-1020 AND 1025 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CPA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF CPA.

LEO B. TUDELA
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

DATE: _____

Committee unanimously passes Radewagen's bill HR 6062

WASHINGTON, D.C.— The House Natural Resources Committee favorably reported Delegate Uifa'atali Amata Radewagen's (R-A. Samoa) bill, H.R. 6062, by a bipartisan unanimous consent vote on Tuesday, advancing the bill to the full House of Representatives.

"I want to thank my colleagues for supporting the passage of H.R. 6062 through unanimous consent. Thank you to chair Westerman and chair Hageman for their leadership and thank you to ranking member Grijalva and Representative Sablan for making this a bipartisan effort," said Radewagen. "At the hearing conducted on January 18 by the chair and ranking member of our subcommittee with oversight on insular affairs, the American Samoa government established a strong record supporting passage of this bill by the House, and the Senate committee of jurisdiction is aware of the progress we are making."

"I want to reiterate that this repeal does not limit Congress' powers in any way. We still have plenary oversight over the territories, and I thank my colleagues for recognizing that," Radewagen concluded. "Rather, this legislation is a strong step forward for territorial and indigenous self-determination and I look forward to continuing to work with all of you on issues affecting American Samoa and the other U.S. territories."

» Legislation streamlines American Samoa's amendment process

The bill restores the ability of the people of American Samoa to more readily approve and implement amendments to the territorial constitution based on democratic self-determination by reducing unnecessary, redundant steps at the federal level.

In addition to Radewagen, Westerman, and the ranking member present, Congressman Jared Huffman (D-CA), expressed support for her bill.

Radewagen's complete statement on H.R. 6062:

"I want to begin today by thanking the Chairman, Ranking Member and the Committee members for giving H.R. 6062 priority and moving forward despite the other demands on our calendar and time. At the hearing conducted on January 18 by the Chair and Ranking Member of our subcommittee with oversight on insular affairs, the American Samoa government established a strong record supporting passage of this bill by the House, and the Senate committee of jurisdiction is aware of the progress we are making.

There are two important points for me to make today.

First, Congress does not need the 1983 one-sentence statute we propose to repeal in order for Congress to exercise full and plenary oversight of any amendments to any local territorial constitution or law.

The second point is that this poorly drafted statute is not enforceable as a mandate for Congress to exercise or hold in abeyance its plenary power over amendments to the local constitution.

So, the 1983 law is a meaningless provision that can have only two applications and effects, both of which are inconsistent with local self-government over local affairs over which Congress has delegated local authority.

The first effect compliance with this statute's provisions would have is to limit the oversight and review of Congress to amendments approved by the Secretary, under authority the Secretary has had since 1951 under Executive Order 10264. The Secretary's authority is limited to approving amendments to the local constitution made in the same manner as the local constitution was adopted by approval of the Secretary. That means the 1983 act that H.R. 6062 will repeal does not give the Secretary any delegated authority the Secretary does not already have under 48 U.S.C. 1661 as adopted in 1929.

The second effect of the 1983 act if it were ever implemented, is that it would restrict and limit the scope of oversight and review by Congress to amendments approved by the Secretary. This means that if the people approve amendments by majority vote in an act of local self-determination and the Secretary disapproves the amendment, the 1983 statute does not provide for Congressional review of a Secretarial veto.

So, if the intent of the 1983 act was to mandate that Congress act as gatekeeper for amendments, the actual effect is that the bill makes the Secretary gatekeeper of locally approved amendments the Secretary disapproves without providing for Congressional oversight. Repeal of the 1983 statute codified at 48 U.S.C. 1662a will remove a statutory impediment to the exercise of Congressional power that is sourced in the Territorial Clause of three Constitution, and does not need to be authorized by a mere statute.

Finally, because the 1983 act does not and cannot force Congress to act on local amendments, the potential for time and delay between local approval of amendments and Congressional action is far greater than the time we have taken since local amendments were approved at the end of 2022 to repeal the 1983 statute, so the Secretary can act on those current amendment proposals without further delay.

For these reasons, I thank the committee for favorable action on H.R. 6062 today." ***(PR)***

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Website: www.cnmiports.com

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY (CPA) is inviting qualified contractors to submit their qualifications and bid proposals for the **BENJAMIN TAISACAN MANGLONA AIRPORT AIRCRAFT PARKING APRON REHABILITATION AIP NO. 3-69-0003-34/XX,** OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS.

Bidders are to submit one original and two copies of their bid which shall be sealed in an envelope and marked on the cover package outside as follows: *"Benjamin Taisacan Manglona Airport Aircraft Parking Apron Rehabilitation AIP No. 3-69-0003-34/XX"* and submitted no later than **2:00 p.m. (CHST). FRIDAY, MAY 24, 2024,** to the Office of the Executive Director at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan Internation Airport, 2nd floor of the Arrival Terminal. Bids will be delivered to the Airport Conference Room immediately following the 2:00 p.m. deadline, at which time and place the sealed proposals will be publicly opened and read.

The Project, in general, consists of, rehabilitation of the aircraft parking apron including all associated work, all in accordance with the Plans and Specifications.

The Project is being financed by funds by U.S. Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and CPA. The contract award, if it is to be made, will be made within one hundred twenty (120) calendar days from the receipt of bids. CPA reserves the right to hold such bids in effect for one hundred eighty (180) calendar days from the date of bid opening.

A DVD containing the Bid Proposal and Contract Documents including plans and specifications, may be obtained at the CPA Accounting Office, 2nd floor of the Departure Terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, upon the payment of **ONE HUNDRED FIFTY ($150.00)** for each set of plans and documents in electronic form (DVD). The payment is nonrefundable. Payment shall be made in cash, credit card, cashier's check or U.S. postal money order made payable to the "Commonwealth Ports Authority". Bidders should notify Ms. Wendi L. Prater, Executive Assistant/Project Manager at wprater@cnmiports.com immediately if there are issues retrieving the files on the DVD. Bidders should also verify all information using the specification table of contents and the index of drawings.

A pre-bid conference will be held at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport, at **10:00 AM. FRIDAY. MAY 10, 2024,** at the Rota Airport to explain and clarify any questions regarding this project. A site visit will follow the pre-bid conference. Attendance is not mandatory. A site visit will follow the pre-bid conference. Bidders are requested to minimize their company's attendees to ensure social distancing, as well as wear a face mask at all times while at the airport.

Questions should be submitted in writing to the CPA Executive Director's Office, 2nd floor of the Arrival Terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport or emailed to Ms. Wendi L. Prater, Executive Assistant/Project Manager at wprater@cnmiports.com at least ten (10) days prior to the bid opening date; with the exception of bid submission extension requests which have no deadline. Responses to all questions and requests for information will be provided to all bidders who purchased the bid documents and attended the pre-bid conference.

Bidders shall use the bid schedule form furnished on the DVD. Each bidder should also supply all supplemental information required in the specifications.

The contract period for construction of the project in its entirety shall be **FOUR HUNDRED FIFTY (450) calendar days.** Liquidated damages in the amount of **ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS ($1,000.00)** shall be assessed the Contractor for each calendar day that the completion of the Project is delayed beyond the contract completion date without approved excuse.

The apparent low bidder will be subject to a thorough and comprehensive review of its qualifications and Bid Documents to ensure that they are "responsive and responsible." This review will include, but is not necessarily limited to previous project experience, financial capabilities, quality of equipment and personnel, and bonding and insurance. If the apparent low bidder is found not to be "responsive or responsible", their bid will be rejected and the next lowest bidder will be evaluated for qualifications.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bid proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Notice to Bidders; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; (c) any calculation error made in the bid schedule or mis-enter of the quantity of line item; or (d) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said bids if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

Each bid shall be accompanied by either a bid bond by a U.S. Treasury listed or CPA approved surety company, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount not less than ten percent (10%) of the bid price. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

All mechanics and laborers for this procurement project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rate established by the CNMI or the U.S. Secretary of Labor, whichever is higher. A copy of the Department of the Federal Labor Wage Rate Determination is included in Section GP 70-28 of the specifications. The bidder shall take into account minimum wage increases that may be imposed in the CNMI over the life of the Contract and include associated costs in the bid proposal. The EEO requirements, labor provisions, and wage rates are included in the specifications.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority, in accordance with the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (78 Stat. 252, 42 USC §§ 2000d to 2000d-4) and the Regulations, hereby notifies all bidders or offerors that it will affirmatively ensure that any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, disadvantaged business enterprises will be afforded full and fair opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, or national origin in consideration for an award.

The United States Secretary of Transportation has granted the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands an exemption from the requirements of the Department of Transportation's Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) regulation, which later became the Department of Transportation's Disadvantaged Business Enterprise program, as it relates to FAA grant programs. The Secretary of Transportation has not determined that a portion of those requirements should be reinstated.

By submitting a bid/proposal under this solicitation, the bidder or offer or certifies that neither it nor its principals are presently debarred or suspended by any Federal department or agency from participation in this transaction.

In addition to the above, all bidders shall comply with all other Federal requirements under this procurement, including but not limited to Buy American Preference, Foreign Trade Restriction, Davis Bacon, Veteran's Preference, Affirmative Action and Governmentwide Debarment and Suspension and Governmentwide Requirements for Drug-free Workplace. Further details on all Federal requirements are provided in the specifications.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY:

/s/ LEO B. TUDELA
Executive Director

Date: April 19, 2024

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Break out the hook. This time Trump-Biden debates need tight rules of civility

President Joe Biden's statement that he would be "happy" to debate Donald J. Trump means that voters will have at least one opportunity to see the two major-party candidates answer questions side by side. Aside from satisfying some viewers' interest in whether the elderly candidates display mental lapses, debates offer an opportunity for voters to compare the candidates' temperaments and glean differences on issues. This is especially useful for those who don't follow presidential campaigns closely.

That said, Biden could have declined to debate Trump on the legitimate grounds that his likely opponent is not a normal candidate but an unhinged former president who sought to overturn an election he lost—an outrageous campaign that culminated in the Jan. 6 attack on the U.S. Capitol by his followers. In commenting on Trump's absence from debates during the Republican primary campaign the editorial board wrote: "No one who has attempted to overturn the will of the voters deserves to be on a debate stage again."

But now that Trump is the presumptive Republican nominee—an indelible stain on the party that has normalized him—it's impossible to have a meaningful debate without him. By participating, Biden has the opportunity to delineate his differences with his predecessor on everything from abortion rights to the economy to foreign policy. Trump likewise will be able to interrogate Biden on his record.

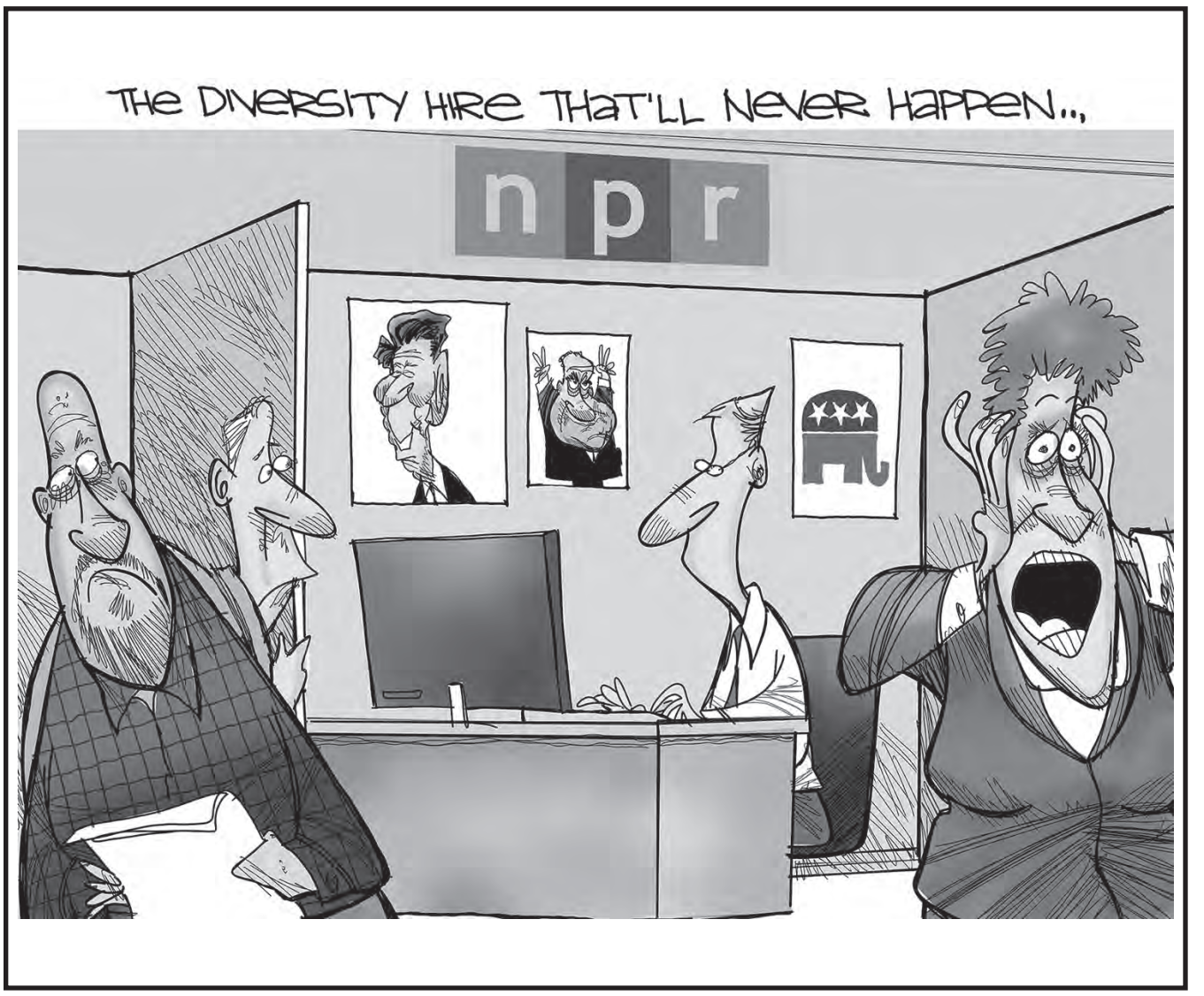
The question is whether Trump will sabotage the civic purpose of presidential debates, as he did when he went berserk in his first debate with Biden in 2020, incessantly interrupting his opponent and spewing vitriol.

Ideally the moderator of any 2024 presidential debate would have the steely fortitude of Juan M. Merchan, the judge presiding over Trump's criminal trial in New York City. Debate moderators can't hold candidates in contempt of court, levy fines or have misbehaving candidates physically removed, but they aren't without the authority to keep participants on track. For instance, they can deal decisively with nominees who bluster, bully, ignore time limits and engage in name-calling by shutting off their microphones.

Trump also should not be permitted to meander endlessly into irrelevancies (nor should Biden) or be allowed to roam around the stage to loom over his rival, as he did during a 2016 presidential debate with Hillary Clinton. Keeping the candidates on topic will be easier if the debates are divided into subject areas. We say "debates" in the plural because multiple encounters at least potentially expand the ground that candidates can cover, as well as assure candidates that they won't be devastated by one bad night.

The nonpartisan Commission on Presidential Debates has announced dates for three presidential debates—Sept. 16,

See BREAK on Page 25



This Mother's Day, let's honor moms of all species

By REBECCA LIBAUSKAS
People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals

My mother once said to me, "A mother's work is never done." It wasn't until I became a parent myself that I grasped the depth of this token of wisdom. Mother's Day is a time to acknowledge the hard work mothers do and the sacrifices they make every single day. But as we honor human mothers, let's also extend recognition to mothers of other species whose stories often go untold. And let's fully honor all mothers by going vegan.

When I was pregnant with my first baby, I wanted her to listen to music in utero. So I went to a concert and felt her move along to "Tiny Dancer." Mother hens, similarly, start teaching their chicks clucks and cheeps while they're still inside their shells. When my babies were little, I "wore" them in back carriers in order to bond with them while I got things done around the house. Wolf spiders, swans, chimpanzees and opossums also carry their offspring on their backs. Making connections with maternal instincts across species reminds us how much all animals are alike on Mother Earth.

For elephants, births are joyful occasions, and the whole family celebrates. Elder females gather around the mother to support and guide her while she's in labor, while younger females learn about the miracle of childbirth. The entire herd trumpets their delight when the newborn arrives.

Pig moms sing to their newborns, calming the piglets while helping them learn to communicate. When the curious little ones are old enough to explore, they come running when they hear their mother's voice. Pigs also rush to help other pigs in distress — many have even saved their family members' lives.

Instead of daycare, baby bats have "nightcare." Bat moms are busy hunting for food at night, eating up to 600 mosquitoes per hour. So a group of moms gets together and create a "nursery colony," where they live together. A few adult bats stay behind each night to babysit while the others go out, and they trade the next night.

A statement signed by a coalition of scientists and released in April states that crows, chimpanzees, elephants and numerous other birds and mammals exhibit behavior suggesting consciousness. This is no surprise to anyone who knows animal mothers' stories. We're all different yet alike in the ways that count.

But not all mothers are granted equal respect due to speciesism. Animal mothers used for food are denied the opportunity to do anything that's natural and important to them: Mother hens' eggs are stolen, and while they're nursing, mother pigs are confined to farrowing crates so small that they can't turn around.

Consider Clarabelle, a pregnant cow living at an animal sanctuary. She was acting strangely, avoiding her friends and sneaking away. After a search, volunteers discovered why: Her baby had arrived. Since her other calves had been taken away when she was used on a dairy farm, she had hidden this one in a patch of tall grass, returning to her companions frequently so their guardians wouldn't suspect anything. As a parent, I'd do the same.

Going vegan is a powerful way to help mothers like Clarabelle and all other animals on the planet—including humans. Raising animals for food requires vast quantities of land and resources, including feed, energy and water. According to one extensive study, vegan eating is responsible for emissions of 75% less climate-heating gas as well as reduced water pollution and land use compared to eating over 100 grams of meat daily. Plus, vegan living is associated with a 66% decrease in wildlife depletion and a 54% decrease in water consumption.

Scientific evidence shows that vegan foods also help reduce the risk of chronic diseases. For example, in a study conducted by Stanford Medicine, researchers discovered that going vegan can lead to improvements in heart health. The study focused on 22 pairs of identical twins, with one twin in each pair eating vegan and the other eating omnivorously. Results showed that the vegan participants had notably reduced levels of low-density lipoprotein cholesterol (LDL-C), insulin and body weight compared to their omnivorous twins. These changes are all linked to enhanced cardiovascular health.

This Mother's Day, as we cherish the maternal bonds that enrich our lives, let's also cultivate a world where all individuals are treated with dignity, compassion and respect by rejecting speciesism. Let's embrace vegan living for Mother Earth and all the mothers who live on her.

Rebecca Libauskas is a climate research specialist with the PETA Foundation, 501 Front St., Norfolk, VA 23510; www.PETA.org.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

American Samoa deserves to thrive as fishing shifts

The perilous state of American Samoa's last tuna cannery is an outcome that experts have long warned about. An international shift in the fishing industry, largely driven by countries with lower workforce standards and pay and subsidized infrastructures, makes U.S. competition in the cannery industry unavailing.

In desperate attempts to cling to the last of what was once four canneries in American Samoa, some industrial fishers and cannery operators are trying to blame Pacific conservation efforts as the culprits. Despite the anticipated demise, it is disingenuous to pit the vitality of the ocean against American Samoa's livelihood. This divisive approach offers false hope that the territory's cannery can somehow survive if we don't protect the health of the Pacific Remote Islands (PRI).

Located in the middle of the Pacific Ocean, Howland, Baker, Jarvis and Wake Islands; Johnston and Palmyra Atolls; and Kingman Reef are home to some of our planet's last wild and healthy ocean ecosystems. The islands, atolls and reefs also hold rich voyaging and cultural history among indigenous Pacific Islanders.

In 2009, President George W. Bush protected parts of the region's waters by establishing the Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monument. In 2014, President Barack Obama expanded the monument. Last year, to further ensure protection of these fragile areas President Joe Biden supported the Pacific Remote Islands Coalition's request to create a national marine sanctuary, further expanding protections to 777,000 square miles. The sanctuary designation process is now underway.

Unfortunately, PRI has become the scapegoat for those who want the territory to remain dependent on a dying cannery industry. Look at the trend: At its peak, American Samoa was home to four canneries. Today, there is one. While convenient to blame conservation efforts, for close to two decades a mix of factors has made the operation of canneries in the U.S. no longer financially viable — or even close to competitive. Other countries entered the canning market and operate with low workforce standards and pay. Those canneries have become much cheaper alternatives for China and others with an exponentially growing presence in the fishing industry. The writing on the wall is stained: It is not in American Samoa's or the United States' best interest for the territory to have a disproportionate economic dependency on StarKist, a South Korean- owned cannery. It's time to invest and advance forward-thinking solutions that benefit American Samoa, the U.S. and our planet.

To diversify its economy, American Samoans should be in the driver's seat, shaping and realizing opportunities they believe are right for them and their long-term future. There are many opportunities to explore. A regenerative tourism model could support local entrepreneurs and grow small businesses. Neighboring Western Samoa already draws tourists from as far away as Europe. Alia (small boat) fishermen, impacted by the industrial fishing industry, could benefit by providing local establishments and communities with fresh, sustainably caught fish.

Today, the National Marine Sanctuary of American Samoa is the largest in the National Marine Sanctuary System, protecting magnificent nearshore coral reefs and offshore open ocean waters. With this incredibly diverse marine life, American Samoa would be an ideal site for a Central Pacific marine science center, nurturing a new generation of local scientists.

An expanded American Samoa-based presence would also provide a critical counterbalance to China's growing influence across the Pacific region. The closed cannery sites and docks in Pago Pago Harbor are existing locations and infrastructures that American Samoa can provide to support Coast Guard vessels in the interest of national security. New jobs and other economic opportunities would follow to support that expanding presence.

It is time for American Samoa to embrace its potential and invest in a blue economy that can realize a thriving future.

By RICK GAFFNEY and WILLIAM AILA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Rick Gaffney, top, is a recreational fisherman and former Western Pacific Fishery Management Council member; Hawaii island resident William Aila is a Native Hawaiian fisherman and former chair of the Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources and the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands.

American Samoa deserves better.

Editor's note: This post originally ran in the Honolulu Star-Advertiser*'s Insight section on April 28, 2024.*

BREAK

From page 24

Oct. 1 and Oct. 9—and one between vice presidential nominees on Sept. 25. (The Trump campaign has complained that the commission hasn't scheduled debates soon enough to accommodate early voters. In California, ballots will be mailed out by Oct. 7 and ballot drop off locations will open on Oct. 8. But the commission on Wednesday said that its timetable was based on factors including "religious and federal holidays, early voting, and the dates on which individual states close their ballots.") Ideally all three debates will go forward, but Biden should feel free to reconsider if Trump doesn't follow the debate rules.

In an open letter calling for Trump and Biden to debate, a group of news organizations (not including the Los Angeles Times) wrote: "If there is one thing Americans can agree on during this polarized time, it is that the stakes of this election are exceptionally high. Amidst that backdrop, there is simply no substitute for the candidates debating with each other, and before the American people, their visions for the future of our nation."

Yet for debates to fulfill that function there must be rules of civility and common decency—and candidates must abide by them.

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Truth 44: Forfeiture of American Landmarks & Optimism???

The TRUTH of the matter is the CNMI has been losing vital "American landmark businesses" in Tony Roma's and now the Hyatt which tells me that our economic decisions are NOT sitting well with American Investors. Rep. Propst is right to be concerned that the government was not informed about Hyatt's departure, but I doubt if it would have made a difference, as our government didn't ask nor inform Hyatt before diving head-on into China. Ever since my arrival in the CNMI I have been very aware of the struggle between "east v west" to dominate in the CNMI, as this phenomenon is evident in nearly all of our economic activities from the groceries we buy & use to the type of cars and now the obvious economic interest in China to be our predominant tourist's market. Mr. BC Cook, columnist and I have both written about China's methodology of extending their interest in the Pacific through their "salami-slicing" technique of "buying-up their ownership." Just think back not even 20 years ago all the stores and businesses were predominantly Local, Japanese and Korean with a few Chinese but the business landscape is shifting to become predominantly Chinese in many businesses. Inside the CNMI is starting to look more & more like S. E. Asia instead of America, and the only real noticeable progress is the roads.

There is a lot of optimism over the Hong Kong flights and the belief that the Chinese tourists will be the source of prosperity for the CNMI. But for the sake of the People and our Commonwealth I pray this does not backfire, as the CNMI is literally rolling the dice on this one. My concern is that there seems to be "NO Plan-B and absolutely no interest in Japan" like what happened when I warned about the demise of the Garment Industry five years in advance, but no body listened and took steps to prepare. Embrace the efforts to build the Chinese Market but also be working on plan B a strategy taught as early as Elementary School – what's our new tourism model!!!

There is just tooooo much at stake to just relax and hope that the flights from Hong Kong are going to be our saving grace, like the casino was supposed to be. But these flights are just a start but its where WE (the CNMI) finishes that I'm concerned about. The application of "critical & analytical thinking" has been missing in a lot of our decision making which is evident in how the casino issue has floundered into being "an act-of-futility" given the Bankruptcy filing by IPI. For me, I Told readers So two years ago that the Casino Commission was stalling and watching everyone else collect from IPI but not doing anything to collect FOR the Government or the people. Our Casino Commission was not worth the tens of thousands WE paid them to let IPI get off the hook Scott-free figuratively. They (the CC nor the Government) NEVER collect a single penny FOR our government nor People. WE didn't even get any stock or anything to show FOR the government's estimated 64-million and the People's 77-million that I was yelling about for the past two years—it is PATHETIC! I TOLD YOU SO it would happen because I could see the CC was stalling for time and more paychecks but who listens to an Economist on these economic matters!

For TRUE, the CNMI is in a state of "optimistic limbo" in anticipation of the Chinese market coming online but I hope and pray that our leaders are not just going to stop working on other potential means to build our Tourists Industry like "advertising our Cannabis Tourism Industry," in some way shape, form or fashion and fix the laws. It is very obvious that the CNMI's leaders and businesses are not on the same page with the Cannabis Tourism Industry, as I've even been told that some Hotels are against cannabis usage and are even "preventing the use of marijuana" instead of embracing the industry and providing a place at the Hotel for cannabis usage, as there is technically no place for tourists to use cannabis if hotels are preventing it—that's our law and some hotels— HELLER! The CNMI is being its own biggest inhibiting-enemy to growing the Hemp and Cannabis Industries that are on the books but neither industry is delivering new revenues, and WE are losing money—duh! There is reason for optimism but there is also a need to pause and fix what is broken with our economic model that needs to be rebuilt away from gambling and WWII, as time has changed the world leaving us in the wake of COVID, and WE need to adapt and catch-up!

Ambrose Bennett
Kagman III

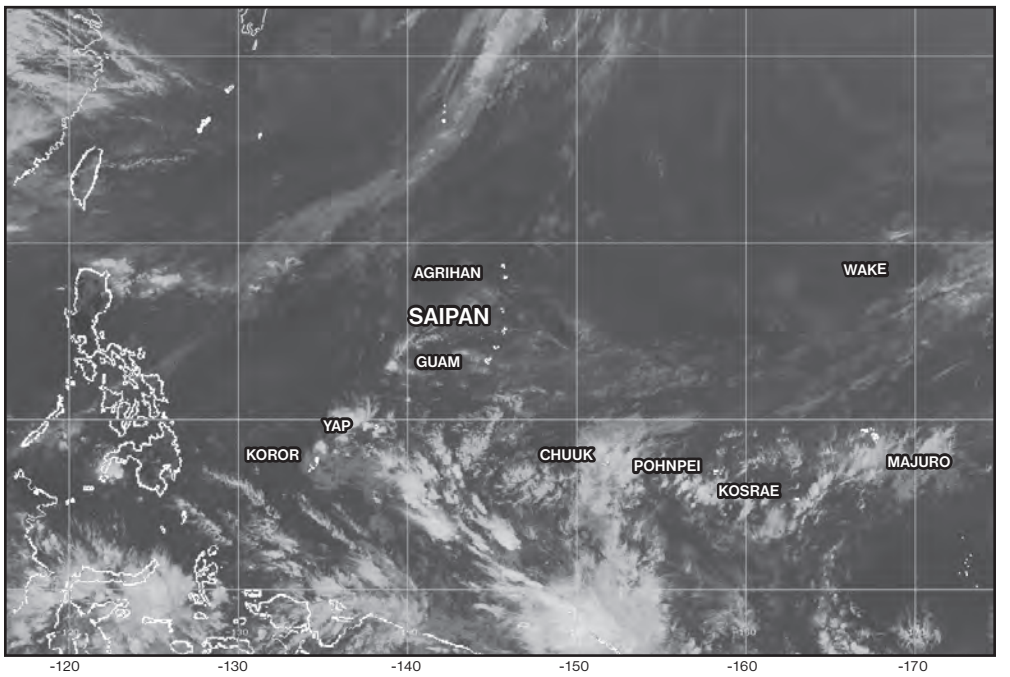
Editor's note: Letter to the editor is written in the artistic style of caps by the author and his language of Ebonics.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers.	Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers.	Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers.
89° 78°	87° 78°	87° 78°	87° 78°	87° 78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 6:08 AM THURSDAY, MAY 9, 2024

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Satellite imagery is showing partly to mostly cloudy skies with isolated showers. Latest altimetry data is indicating seas of 4 to 6 feet in the coastal waters. Winds are gentle to moderate.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: https://www.weather.gov/gum/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	90° / 81°
Palau	Light Rain	86° / 80°
Yap	Mostly Cloudy	86° / 79°
Chuuk	Mostly Cloudy	87° / 78°
Pohnpei	Cloudy	86° / 80°
Kosrae	Cloudy	85° / 80°
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	84° / 78°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:49 AM	6:37 PM
Saturday	5:49 AM	6:37 PM
Sunday	5:49 AM	6:37 PM
Monday	5:48 AM	6:37 PM
Tuesday	5:48 AM	6:38 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	7:16 AM	8:52 PM	-
Saturday	8:14 AM	9:53 PM	-
Sunday	9:13 AM	10:48 PM	-
Monday	10:11 AM	11:38 PM	-
Tuesday	11:06 AM	-	-

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Fair	61° /45°
Beijing	Fair	87° / 60°
Hong Kong	Fair	83° / 75°
Honolulu	Showers	77° / 66°
London	Windy	45° / 37°
Los Angeles	Sunny	73° / 50°
Manila	Partly Cloudy	96° / 83°
Melbourne	Showers	75° / 64°
Miami	Partly Cloudy	80° / 73°
New York	Clear	84° / 64°
Osaka	Sunny	67° / 55°
Paris	Partly Cloudy	48° / 39°
Busan	Sunny	65° /47°
Rome	Partly Cloudy	66° / 46°
Salem	Thunderstorms	73° / 59°
San Francisco	Sunny	63° / 45°
Seoul	Sunny	71° / 48°
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	71° / 51°
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	87° / 69°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
3:14 AM	Low Tide	1.32
7:57 AM	High Tide	2.05
3:28 PM	Low Tide	0.38
10:44 PM	High Tide	2.03

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 7, 2024

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA076	9:50AM	10:35AM	Daily

SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)

UA824	11:40AM	2:25PM	1, 3, 5

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	Daily
UA193	6:55PM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Palau
UA183	7:15PM	9:10PM	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

7C3403/2305	4:45AM	10:20PM	Daily
UA076/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam
UA076/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	Daily
7C3405	4:10PM	7:45PM	Daily
7C3403	4:45AM	8:35AM	Daily

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX77	4:05AM	7:00AM	1, 5

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	8:00AM	8:45AM	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

UA825	5:30PM	9:55PM	2, 4, 7

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

PR110	10:30PM	4:25AM+1	Daily
UA184	10:25PM	4:10AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA192	10:25PM	6:15AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
UA184	11:50PM	5:35AM+1	2, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA192/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
UA184/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6,7 via Guam
UA184/174	11:50PM	8:45AM+1	2, 5 via Guam
7C2306/3406	11:10PM	3:10PM+1	Daily

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3406	9:30AM	3:10PM	Daily
TW307	8:15PM	1:40AM+1	Daily
7C3404	10:10PM	3:40AM+1	Daily

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

HX76	7:35PM	2:35AM+1	4, 7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 2, 2024

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	SAIPAN	ROTA	08:30	09:00	Daily
1302	SAIPAN	ROTA	10:30	11:00	Daily
1303	SAIPAN	ROTA	15:30	16:00	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	ROTA	SAIPAN	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	ROTA	SAIPAN	11:30	12:00	Saturday & Sunday
3103	ROTA	SAIPAN	13:30	14:00	Monday To Friday
3104	ROTA	SAIPAN	16:30	17:00	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	ROTA	GUAM	11:30	12:00	Monday To Friday

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	GUAM	ROTA	12:30	13:00	Monday To Friday

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1201	SAIPAN	TINIAN	7:30	7:45	Daily
1202	SAIPAN	TINIAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	SAIPAN	TINIAN	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	SAIPAN	TINIAN	10:00	10:15	Daily
1206	SAIPAN	TINIAN	14:00	14:15	Daily
1207	SAIPAN	TINIAN	15:00	15:15	Daily
1208	SAIPAN	TINIAN	16:00	16:15	Daily
1209	SAIPAN	TINIAN	17:00	17:15	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2101	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
2102	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	TINIAN	SAIPAN	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	TINIAN	SAIPAN	10:30	10:45	Daily
2106	TINIAN	SAIPAN	14:30	14:45	Daily
2107	TINIAN	SAIPAN	15:30	15:45	Daily
2108	TINIAN	SAIPAN	16:30	16:45	Daily
2109	TINIAN	SAIPAN	17:30	17:45	Daily

Life & Style

Fans are following Taylor Swift to Europe

After finding Eras Tour tickets less costly there

LONDON (AP)—Thousands of ride-or-die Taylor Swift fans who missed out on her U.S. concert tour last year or didn't want to buy exorbitantly priced tickets to see her again found an out-of-the-way solution: Fly to Europe.

The pop star is scheduled to kick off the 18-city Europe leg of her record-setting Eras Tour in Paris on Thursday, and planeloads of Swifties plan to follow Miss Americana across the pond in the coming weeks. The arena where Swift is appearing said Americans bought 20% of the tickets for her four sold-out shows. Stockholm, the tour's next stop, expects about 10,000 concertgoers from the U.S.

A concert might sound like an odd raison d'etre for visiting a foreign country, especially when fans can watch the Eras Tour from home via the documentary now streaming on Disney+. Yet online travel company Expedia says continent-hopping by Swift's devotees is part of a larger trend it dubbed "tour tourism" while observing a pattern that emerged during Beyoncé's Renaissance world tour.

Some North American fans who plan to fly overseas for the Eras Tour said they justified the expense after noticing that tighter restrictions on ticket fees and resales in Europe made seeing Swift perform abroad no more costly—and potentially cheaper—than catching her closer to home.

"They said, 'Wait a minute, I can either spend $1,500 to go see my favorite artist in Miami, or I can take that $1,500 and buy a concert ticket, a round-trip plane ticket, and three nights in a hotel room," Melanie Fish, an Expedia spokesperson and travel expert, said.

That was the experience of Jennifer Warren, 43, who lives in St. Catharines, a city in the Niagara region of Ontario. She and her 11-year-old son love Swift but had no luck scoring what she considered as decently priced tickets in the U.S. Undeterred, Warren and her husband decided to plan a European vacation around wherever she managed to get seats. It turned out to be Hamburg, Germany.

"You get out, you get to see the world, and you get to see your favorite artist or performer at the same time, so there are a lot of wins to it," said Warren, who works as the director of research and innovation for a mutual insurance company.

The three VIP tickets she secured close to the stage—"I would call it brute-force dumb luck"—cost 600 euros ($646) each. Swift subsequently announced six November tour dates in Toronto, within driving distance of Warren's home. "Absolute nose-bleed seats" already are going for 3,000 Canadian dollars ($2,194) on secondary resale sites like Viagogo, Warren said.

TOUR TOURISM: IS IT REALLY A THING?

Hard-core fans trailing their favorite singer or band on tour is not a new phenomenon. "Groupie" emerged in the late 1960s as a somewhat derogatory word for the ardent followers of rock bands. Deadheads took to the road in the 1970s to pursue the Grateful Dead from city to city.

More recently, music festivals like California's Coachella and England's Glastonbury, and concert residencies in Las Vegas by the likes of Elton John, Lady Gaga and Adele, have attracted travelers to places they wouldn't otherwise visit, Fish noted.

Travel and entertainment analysts have also spoken of a pent-up consumer demand for "experiences" over material objects since the coronavirus pandemic. Some think the willingness of music lovers to broaden their fandom horizons is part of the same mass cultural correction.

"It does seem like it's more than a structural shift, maybe a personality transformation we all went through," said Natalia Lechmanova, the chief Europe economist for the Mastercard Economics Institute.

As Swift hopscotches across Europe, Lechmanova expects restaurants and hotels to see the same boost that Mastercard observed within a 2.5-mile (4-kilometer) radius of concert venues in the U.S. cities she visited in 2023. The U.S. dollar's strong value against the euro may also increase retail spending on apparel, memorabilia, beauty products and supplies for the friendship bracelets fans exchange as part of the Eras Tour experience, the economist said.

Former college roommates Lizzy Hale, 34, who lives in Los Angeles, and Mitch Goulding, 33, who lives in Austin, Texas, already had tickets to see the Eras Tour in L.A. last summer when they decided to try to get ones for Paris, London or Edinburgh, Scotland, too. They saw a Europe concert trip as a makeup for travel plans they had in May 2020 to celebrate Goulding's birthday but had to cancel due to the pandemic.

Goulding managed to secure VIP tickets for one of Swift's three Stockholm shows. He, Hale and two other friends scheduled a 10-day trip that also includes time in Amsterdam and Copenhagen.

"As people who enjoy traveling and enjoy music, if you can find an opportunity to combine the two, it's really special," said Hale, who is pregnant with her first child.

FOR STOCKHOLM, 120,000 SWIFTIES CAN'T BE WRONG

The local economic impact of what the zeitgeist has termed "Swiftonomics" and the "Swift lift" can be considerable. It's no wonder the exclusive arrangement Singapore's government made with Swift to make the city-state her only tour stop in Southeast Asia earlier this year aroused regional jealousy.

No European governments have complained of their countries not being among the dozen selected for the Europe leg of the Eras Tour, although some fans have expressed surprise that Gelsenkirchen, a city with a population of about 264,000 is one of the three cities in Germany that made the cut.

Airbnb reported Tuesday that searches on its platform for the U.K. cities where Swift is performing in June and August — Edinburgh, Liverpool, Cardiff and London—increased an average of 337% when tickets went on sale last summer.

Not to be outdone when it comes to trend-spotting, the property rentals company cited the demand as an example of "passion tourism," or travel "driven by concerts, sports and other cultural events."

In Stockholm, 120,000 out-of-towners from 130 countries—among them 10,000 from the U.S.—are expected to swarm Sweden's capital this month, Stockholm Chamber of Commerce Chief Economist Carl Bergqvist said. Stockholm is the only Scandinavian city on Swift's tour, and airlines added extra flights from nearby Denmark, Finland and Norway to bring people to the May 17-19 shows, he said.

The city's 40,000 hotel rooms are sold out even though prices skyrocketed for the tour dates, Bergqvist said. Concert visitors are expected to pump around 500 million Swedish kroner, or over $46 million, into the local economy over the course of their stays, an estimate that does not include what they paid for Swift tickets or to get to Sweden, he said.

"So this is going to be huge for the tourism sector in Sweden and Stockholm in particular," Bergqvist said.

Nightclubs, restaurants and bars are seizing the opportunity to cater to fans with Taylor Swift-themed events, such as karaoke, quizzes and after-concert dance parties.

Houston resident Caroline Matlock, 29, saw Swift more than a year ago when the Eras Tour came to the Texas city. Now she's making more friendship bracelets and trying to learn a few words of Swedish as she prepares to see the 3 1/2-hour show in Stockholm. The idea of seeing Swift in Europe was her friend's, and Matlock needed some persuading at first.

"I was like, 'I only want to go if it's a country I haven't been to. I've seen Taylor Swift,'" she said.

Visiting the Scandinavian cities of Oslo and Gothenburg is on their itinerary. The concert is the last night of the trip and Matlock looks forward to interacting with Swifties from other countries: "Americans tend to have a very obsessive culture, especially Taylor Swift-related, so I'm curious if the crowd will be more toned-down."

WILL TOUR TOURISM ENDURE AFTER ERAS?

It remains to be seen if the music tourism trend has legs as long and strong as Swift's and Beyoncé's, and if it will carry over to Billie Eilish, Usher and other artists with world tours scheduled next year. Expedia's Fish thinks other big-name artists in Europe this summer will prove that booking a foreign trip around a concert is catching on.

Kat Morga, a travel consultant based in Nashville, isn't so sure. Morga saw Swift perform in Nashville last year and helped two clients with school-aged children book European family vacations this summer that include seeing Swift in concert. But she thinks the difficulty of navigating ticket purchases through language barriers, currency conversions, international banking regulations and the risk of cancellations will limit the appeal of regular gig getaways.

Father tells daughter she shares blame for divorce

DEAR ABBY: I am the 18-year-old daughter (and third child) of parents who are going through a divorce after being together for 36 years. I need your insight on this because I am unsure.

My father has always craved physical love and affection, whereas my mom is more like a cat who prefers separation and independence. Even with these differences, things used to be good between them. That was until Mom decided she wanted to stop having sex due to her age and no longer enjoying it. (She also quit drinking, which he didn't like.)

My father was very upset with this and claimed it was abuse if she didn't make love with him, since "that's how people show love." He also stated she should "be more fun" by drinking with him. Mom tried to keep the family at peace and be the person he wanted her to be for a few years, but finally decided she could no longer do it. He moved on very quickly -- my father is already with another woman, even though he and Mom aren't officially divorced yet.

I've always taken my mom's side, but this has caused my relationship with Dad to dwindle significantly. He claims I am part of the reason the divorce is happening, since I "make her feel like what she's doing is OK." Should I see his perspective as well?

TEEN OF DIVORCE IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR TEEN: That your father has dragged you into the marital difficulties between him and your mother is appalling. I believe it is a form of child abuse. The person whose perspective you should seek -- and I am not saying this lightly -- is a licensed psychotherapist, to discuss this entire matter. You are NOT the reason for your parents' divorce. Their basic incompatibility and your father's manipulative nature are the reasons. Please talk to your doctor about a referral NOW.

■■■■

DEAR ABBY: Nine months ago, I started dating an older man. I've known him for 14 years. We live several hundred miles apart. He lost both of his parents recently. We used to talk and/or text all day long. Now I hear from him only if I reach out. He says I need to give him time to process his loss. As his partner, it feels like he has shut me out. Any time I mention my feelings, he says I'm acting out. I don't know whether I should walk away or hang tight. Please advise.

SHUT OUT IN TEXAS

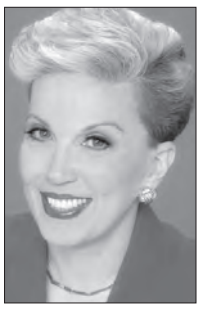
DEAR SHUT OUT: This man is absolutely right. He DOES need time to process the loss of his parents. This may strike you as humorous, but I couldn't be more serious: Regardless of his age, your friend is now an orphan. You cannot make the situation better. He has been clear about that. Stop trying to insert yourself and let him regain his balance. Tell him you are there for him IF he needs you. Call every couple of WEEKS to check on him, but not more often. If what you have together is good, in time, things may improve for both of you.

■■■■

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

MOM, I CAN'T SLEEP.
I'M SURE YOU CAN IF YOU JUST LIE QUIETLY.
BUT HOBBES ISN'T HERE.
TIGERS ARE VERY COMFORTING. I ALWAYS FALL RIGHT ASLEEP WHEN I LISTEN TO HOBBES BREATHING.
WELL, YOU CAN LISTEN TO YOUR DAD SNORING.
THAT'S DAD? I THOUGHT THOSE WERE TRUCKS DOWN-SHIFTING ON THE HIGHWAY.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

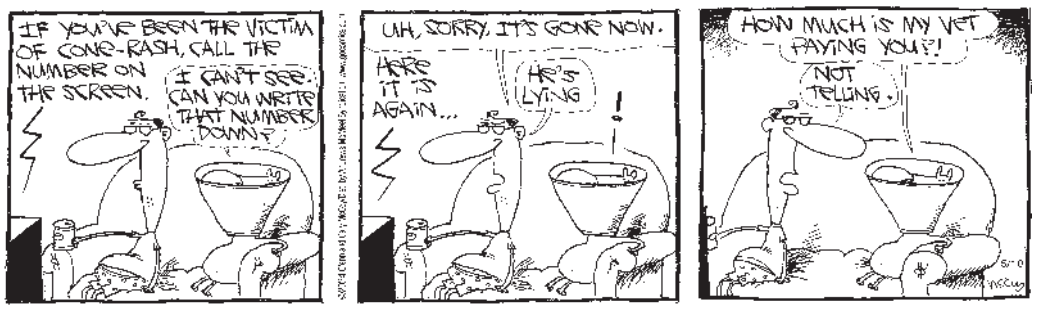
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

DAD? ARE THERE A LOT OF DUMB, MEAN PEOPLE ONLINE?
OH, THAT'S KIND OF HARSH.
THERE'S A WHOLE SPECTRUM OF PEOPLE ONLINE.
DON'T STOOP TO THEIR LEVEL, JUDGING THEM.
I WAS READING THE REVIEWS ON YOUR LATEST BOOK.
OH, THOSE PEOPLE ARE DUMB AND MEAN. THE NICE ONES ARE ELSEWHERE.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


IF YOU'VE BEEN THE VICTIM OF CONE-RASH, CALL THE NUMBER ON THE SCREEN.
I CAN'T SEE. CAN YOU WRITE THAT NUMBER DOWN?
UH, SORRY, IT'S GONE NOW.
HERE IT IS AGAIN...
HE'S LYING
HOW MUCH IS MY VET PAYING YOU?!
NOT TELLING.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

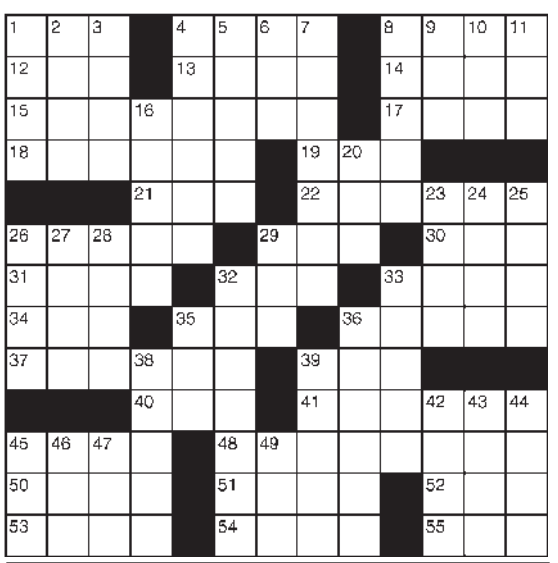
ACROSS
1 Prohibit
4 Blender sound
8 Dross
12 — carte
13 Leak slowly
14 Single
15 Like Rudolph
17 Charged bits
18 Criticize harshly
19 Stashed
21 Dawn goddess
22 Feral feline
26 Rene of "Ransom"
29 Farm pen
30 Olympic skater Midori
31 "Cold As Ever" rapper
32 ICU pros
33 Radiate
34 Ga. neighbor
35 Solidify
36 Senior member
37 Synagogue text
39 Jaden, to Will Smith
40 — loss
41 Special Olympics founder Shriver
45 Pickling herb
48 Snoopy's foe
50 Part of Q.E.D.
51 Potatoes partner
52 Frenzied
53 Low range
54 Hankerings
55 "Toy Story 2" toy store

DOWN
1 Taverns
2 Actor Baldwin
3 Zilch
4 "Yay!"
5 Garden aids
6 Noun-to-verb suffix
7 Fiery cinnamon candies
8 Trombone part
9 Bathroom, in London
10 New England cape
11 Some fridges
16 A-bomb trial
20 Glacial
23 Easter bloom
24 Oklahoma tribe
25 Hamlet
26 Falling-out
27 Bruins' sch.
28 Barking mammal
29 NBC weekend show
32 Soviet fighting force
33 "— Fly Now" ("Rocky" theme)
35 Belly
36 Misgivings
38 Fountain drinks
39 Auto style
42 "— la Douce"
43 Furnace fuel
44 Termini
45 Cotillion celeb
46 Lyricist Gershwin
47 Scale notes
49 Shoe width

Solution time: 25 mins.

D	A	T	A	■	P	E	R	K	■	J	A	B
E	L	A	M	■	I	M	A	N	■	E	L	C
J	U	D	Y	B	L	U	M	E	■	T	O	C
A	M	S	I	E	L	■	■	A	M	B	E	R
■	■	■	A	D	■	I	I	D	A	L	■	■
R	I	J	N	■	I	B	S	■	Y	A	W	N
I	■	I	U	■	A	O	I	■	■	C	F	O
S	I	N	S	■	D	N	A	■	E	K	E	D
■	■	E	N	D	E	D	■	M	A	■	■	■
P	A	B	L	O	■	■	K	A	R	A	T	E
Y	O	U	■	J	U	I	C	E	B	A	R	S
L	U	G	■	O	H	C	A	■	U	R	I	S
L	I	S	■	S	L	L	H	■	D	L	M	O

Yesterday's answer 5-10



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Missy Franklin, 29; Kenan Thompson, 46; Bono, 64; Donovan, 78.

Happy Birthday: Discipline and desire can help you improve your life. Make personal decisions that encourage better health and well-being. Get your finances in order and lower your stress. Put your happiness at the top of your list, and don't settle for less than what makes you happy. Take control, and you'll discover the path that leads to personal contentment and satisfaction. Love and romance are in the stars. Your numbers are 7, 13, 20, 24, 32, 39, 47.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Don't share personal information or allow others to misinterpret your words. Pay attention to where your money goes, and keep up with changes at work and in your community. Knowledge is your safety net to emotional and financial security. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Participate in something that interests or concerns you and will inspire you to make a difference or change your lifestyle. Don't limit yourself, make excuses or set unnecessary boundaries. Be open to new beginnings and discover what life has to offer. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Being too chatty will be problematic. Know when to share feelings and when to keep things to yourself. You can rectify the problem by being a better listener, observer and coach. Focus on personal improvement, discipline and finishing what you start. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Research and keep an open mind, but don't let anyone talk you into something you don't need or get involved in something time-consuming with few benefits to you. Do your own thing and only contribute to pursuits that matter to you. Romance is favored. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Rethink your next move; research and look for hidden costs. Don't be a follower, regardless of what others do or say. Think for yourself and focus on broadening your awareness rather than taking a risk on something foreign to you. Minimize debt. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Fact-checking is essential. Discussions may go differently than planned, but try to accept and move forward; the outcome will be better than anticipated. Be patient and accommodating; when you see an opportunity, take advantage, and something good will transpire. ✪✪s

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* The information you receive will mislead you. Ask questions, and you'll discover how best to press forward and stick to a budget. A domestic change or move requires time, effort and energy. Don't expect an outsider to look out for your interests. Handle matters yourself. ✪✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Plan to have some fun. A break will help you regenerate and spark your imagination. The people you connect with will give you food for thought and suggestions that can lead to an unexpected opportunity. Don't be afraid to make a move or change your lifestyle. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Verify the information you receive and only adjust what's necessary. Use your connections, intelligence and your backbone to get what you want without giving up too much. Someone you least expect will let you down. Be prepared to step in and take over. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Get out and about. Too much time spent at home or with negative people will lead to stress and anxiety. Focus on events and activities that challenge and inspire you to try something new and to surround yourself with like-minded people. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Don't settle for less when you can have so much more. Be realistic about your situation and the changes happening around you. Discuss your intentions with someone you trust and know you can count on for help when you are ready to make a move. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Being in control of your emotions will give you the upper hand. Don't let anyone know what you are thinking or how you feel. Conversations will reveal all the information you require to decide your next move. Do what offers stability and long-term security. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are dedicated, sensitive and strong-willed. You are energetic and traditional.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

7					6			4
6			9				2	7
		4		8				
	6			9		1		2
8						4		
1	7	9		4				5
		8	2		1			
							6	
9	1	6						

Difficulty: ★★★★ 5/10

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

2	1	7	9	6	3	5	4	8
5	3	9	2	8	4	1	6	7
6	4	8	1	5	7	2	9	3
8	5	2	6	7	1	9	3	4
4	9	6	5	3	8	7	1	2
3	7	1	4	9	2	6	8	5
9	6	3	8	2	5	4	7	1
1	8	5	7	4	6	3	2	9
7	2	4	3	1	9	8	5	6

Difficulty: ★★★ 5/9

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

EARNING REWARD POINTS Solution: 7 letters

E	G	R	O	C	E	R	Y	A	D	H	T	R	I	B
X	A	C	C	O	U	N	T	I	D	E	R	C	A	P
P	M	T	R	A	V	E	L	E	T	O	H	G	D	E
E	I	O	I	M	I	L	E	S	C	D	G	C	A	R
N	N	D	N	Ⓒ	Ⓐ	Ⓡ	Ⓓ	O	E	A	G	R	T	C
S	G	L	O	E	K	O	D	B	G	N	O	E	E	E
E	C	I	S	L	Y	E	I	E	I	F	N	S	V	N
K	E	A	B	T	L	T	T	P	F	D	L	T	I	T
C	M	T	N	I	R	A	P	E	N	L	I	A	T	N
A	O	E	L	O	L	O	R	E	G	E	N	U	N	U
B	C	R	P	U	H	L	P	S	F	N	E	R	E	O
H	N	R	C	S	C	S	S	S	P	A	I	A	C	C
S	I	L	O	Y	A	L	T	Y	T	A	C	N	N	S
A	A	I	D	E	M	L	A	I	C	O	S	T	I	I
C	H	E	C	K	O	U	T	T	I	S	O	P	E	D

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Account, Airport, Baggage, Bills, Birthday, Café, Calculate, Card, Cash Back, Checkout, Code, Credit, Date, Debit, Deposit, Dining, Discount, Dollar, Expense, Gaming, Grocery, Hotel, Incentive, Income, Loyalty, Miles, Money, Offer, Online, Percent, Restaurant, Retail, Scan, Shopping, Social Media, Spas, Spend, Sports, Ticket, Travel

Yesterday's Answer: Business

The NEW **TELEWORD VINTAGE COLLECTION EDITION #1** can be purchased on line at www.WonderWordBooks.com. (In Canada, call 1-855-232-2367)

Injured Brunson sparks Knicks past Pacers in Game 2

NEW YORK (AP)—Jalen Brunson left the locker room on an injured leg, walked onto the court and sent the Madison Square Garden crowd into a frenzy, just as Willis Reed had exactly 54 years earlier.

As the roars turned into "MVP! MVP!" chants, Brunson tried to block out the pain in his body and the noise all around him as he warmed up at halftime.

"It was really cool to hear, but I just knew that I had to get my mind in the right place to figure out how I was going to attack the second half," Brunson said.

He shook off his right foot injury to score 24 of his 29 points in the final two quarters, leading the New York Knicks to a 130-121 victory over the Indiana Pacers on Wednesday night for a 2-0 lead in the Eastern Conference semifinals.

On the anniversary of Reed's dramatic emergence from the locker room before Game 7 of the 1970 NBA Finals to lead the Knicks to their first title, Brunson had missed the entire second quarter while the Pacers surged ahead to a double-figure lead.

Reed's teammates have said they didn't know if he would play that night. Brunson's had no doubt.

"I mean, he's a warrior. That's all I got," Donte DiVincenzo said. "There was no doubt in my mind that he'll be back. All season long, no matter what is thrown at him, injury bug or whatever, he always bounces back. And we knew the severity of the game and everything, so we knew, everybody had confidence he was coming back."

AP

Indiana Pacers' Andrew Nembhard (2) defends against New York Knicks' Jalen Brunson (11) during the first half of Game 2 in an NBA basketball second-round playoff series Wednesday, May 8, 2024, in New York.

Brunson fell short of becoming the second player in NBA history to score 40 or more points in five straight playoff games, but he gave the Knicks everything they needed to move halfway to their first Eastern Conference finals appearance since 2000.

"He's a great leader, so I think the players all have respect for that, when a guy goes out and is willing to give whatever he has, and so that says a lot about him," Knicks coach Tom Thibodeau said.

OG Anunoby added a career playoff-high 28 points before leaving with a left hamstring injury in the third quarter for the injury-riddled Knicks, who have already lost three key players to season-ending injuries.

But they got Brunson back and received huge efforts again from his two Villanova teammates. DiVincenzo scored 28 points and Josh Hart had 19 points, 15 rebounds and seven assists for the No. 2-seeded Knicks.

Tyrese Haliburton rebounded from a poor Game 1 with 34 points, nine assists and six rebounds for the Pacers, who finished the game without coach Rick Carlisle after he got two technical fouls and was ejected.

"Small-market teams deserve an equal shot," Carlisle said during a postgame complaint about the officiating. "They deserve a fair shot no matter where they are playing."

The series moves to Indiana for Game 3 on Friday and Game 4 on Sunday.

Former Knicks forward Obi Toppin added 20 points in another strong effort by Indiana's reserves, but the Pacers hurt themselves by shooting just 10 for 17 (59%) from the free throw line.

Knicks fans profanely jeered Pacers Hall of Famer Reggie Miller, an enemy from the heated 1990s era of this playoff rivalry who was calling the game as part of TNT's crew, during a delirious finish to what had been a nervous first half, when Brunson was missing for the entire second quarter.

He had made a 3-pointer for a 24-13 lead in the first quarter, giving the Knicks 10 baskets in their first 14 shots in a blistering start. But after Toppin made one for the Pacers on the other end, Brunson began waving to the bench for a substitution as he ran down the court on offense. That was early in an 11-0 run by Indiana to tie it, and it was tied again at 36 after Toppin made three free throws with 0.3 seconds remaining.

The Pacers then made 15 of 22 shots in the second quarter in Brunson's absence, outscoring the Knicks 37-27 to take a 73-63 lead.

Brunson would only say he felt some discomfort and that once he warmed up, he knew he was going back into the game.

"I had a decision to make and I made a decision," Brunson said.

Indiana's lead was 79-70 before the Knicks stormed ahead with a 14-0 run, with Brunson contributing a three-point play during it as New York went ahead 84-79.

Anunoby was hurt soon after, appearing to injure his hamstring while trying to finish a fast-break layup, but Brunson guided the Knicks through the finish with 14 points in the fourth quarter.

With All-Star Julius Randle gone to shoulder surgery and key reserves Mitchell Robinson and Bojan Bogdanovic lost in the playoffs, the Knicks have been relying on their starters to play major minutes—all 48 of them for Hart in both games of the series.

So they can't afford to play without Brunson, who finished fifth in the voting for MVP that Nikola Jokic won Wednesday.

He had joined Jerry West, Michael Jordan and Bernard King as the only players with at least four straight 40-point games in the playoffs, and came in as the leading scorer in the postseason with 36.6 points per game.

Brunson ended up getting fairly close to that despite playing only 32 minutes, saying afterward that teammates were teasing him with Reed jokes.

Isaiah Hartenstein finished with 14 points, 12 rebounds and eight assists for the Knicks, forced to play 39 minutes after the Knicks announced Tuesday that Robinson would miss at least six weeks with a stress injury to his left ankle.

The Knicks paid tribute Reed's return, one of the most memorable moments in NBA and Madison Square Garden, during the first quarter. His No. 19 jersey, hanging in the rafters, was spotlighted, and Hall of Fame teammate Walt Frazier came onto the court for an ovation.

Jokic wins NBA's MVP award, his 3rd in 4 seasons

By TIM REYNOLDS
AP BASKETBALL WRITER

Nikola Jokic did it all again. And the MVP trophy is his again.

Jokic, the Denver Nuggets star from Serbia, was announced Wednesday night as the NBA's Most Valuable Player—his third time winning the award in the past four seasons, a feat that just six other players in league history have accomplished.

He averaged 26.4 points, 12.4 rebounds and 9.0 assists. Others averaged more in each category—and Jokic has had better years in each of those categories—but he was the only player to rank in the NBA's top 10 in points, rebounds and assists per game this season.

Jokic got 79 of a possible 99 first-place votes from the panel of reporters and broadcasters who cast ballots on awards when the regular season ended.

"It's got to start with your teammates," Jokic said on TNT, where the award was announced. "Without them, I'm nothing. Without them, I cannot do nothing. Coaches, players, organization, medical staff, development coaches ... I cannot be whoever I am without them."

Oklahoma City's Shai Gilgeous-Alexander was second and Dallas' Luka Doncic was third, both getting into the top three of MVP voting for the first time. With Jokic from Serbia, Gilgeous-Alexander from Canada and Doncic from Slovenia, it marked the third consecutive season that three players born outside the U.S. finished 1-2-3 in the MVP balloting.

This time, the foreign dominance atop the NBA was even more pronounced: Milwaukee's Giannis Antetokounmpo, who is from Greece, was fourth—so this became the first time in the award's 69-year history that international players went 1-2-3-4 in the voting. It also became the sixth consecutive year that a player born outside the U.S. won the award.

Jokic appeared on television for the award announcement wearing a T-shirt commemorating the life of one of his mentors, Golden State assistant coach Dejan Milojević, who died earlier this year after a heart attack on a road trip.

"To be honest, I'm wearing this shirt pretty much every day, especially when I'm in the training facility," Jokic said. "Deki was the guy who gave me the freedom. He showed me the way how you're supposed to do things—act, train, workout. ... He trusted me and I can just say, 'thank you.'"

Jokic appeared on all 99 ballots, with 18 second-place votes and two third-place votes. Gilgeous-Alexander also appeared on every ballot, with 15 first-place votes, 40 second-place, 40 third-place, three fourth-place and one fifth-place nod.

Doncic was on all but one ballot and got four first-place votes. Antetokounmpo got one first-place vote on his way to fourth. New York's Jalen Brunson was fifth, followed by Boston's Jayson Tatum, Minnesota's Anthony Edwards, Sacramento's Domantas Sabonis and Phoenix's Kevin Durant.

"Some people say it's the best player on the best team," Jokic said, when asked to define an MVP. "To me, it's the guy who's the most valuable, the team couldn't play without him."

Jokic is now the ninth player to win the MVP award at least three times. Kareem Abdul-Jabbar won it six times, Bill Russell and Michael Jordan each won five, Wilt Chamberlain and LeBron James won four, and Moses Malone, Larry Bird and Magic Johnson are the other three-time winners.

Jokic's surprise rise to superstardom has been chronicled time and again over the years: He was the 41st overall pick in the 2014 draft, didn't even think he had a realistic chance at playing in the NBA when his career was beginning and now has a Hall of Fame resume at 29.

The other players with three MVP trophies in a four-year span are James, Johnson, Bird, Abdul-Jabbar, Chamberlain and Russell. And Jokic becomes the fifth player to be first or second in the MVP voting in four consecutive years—joining Bird, Abdul-Jabbar, Russell and Tim Duncan.

Gilgeous-Alexander had perhaps the best feel-good story in the NBA this season, helping Oklahoma City to the No. 1 seed in the Western Conference by averaging 30.1 points, 5.5 rebounds and 6.2 assists. The Thunder won 57 games, 17 more than they did last season and 33 more than they did two years ago, their rise coinciding with Gilgeous-Alexander's emergence as one of the game's elite players.

"There is not a night when I don't feel like we have the best player on the floor. … There's no one I'd rather have on our team than him," Thunder coach Mark Daigneault, the league's coach of the year this season, said last month.

Doncic made a case for the MVP award by posting the first season in NBA history in which a player averaged 34 points, nine rebounds and nine assists per game. There had been 14 instances before this year in which a player averaged that many points and rebounds in a season—of those, five had resulted in MVP wins, including last season when Philadelphia's Joel Embiid averaged 33 points and 10 rebounds.

Guardians get 5-4 win over Tigers with 10th inning RBI

CLEVELAND (AP)—Brayan Rocchio singled home automatic runner Ramón Laureano with one out in the 10th inning, giving Cleveland a 5-4 victory over the Detroit on Wednesday.

Cleveland forced extra innings on David Fry's solo homer in the ninth against Andrew Chafin, then completed its comeback when Rocchio sharply smacked a pitch from closer Alex Lange (0-2) into center field.

Rocchio also scored an unearned run in the eighth off Joey Wentz to pull the Guardians within 4-3. It was his first career walk-off hit.

Emmanuel Clase (2-1) earned the win with a scoreless inning as Cleveland moved into a tie for the second-best record in the American League at 24-13.

It was Detroit's major league-high 15th one-run game of the season. The Tigers are 7-8 in those games.

AP

Cleveland Guardians' Brayan Rocchio hits the game-winning RBI single off Detroit Tigers pitcher Alex Lange in the 10th inning of a baseball game, Wednesday, May 8, 2024, in Cleveland.

ROYALS 6, BREWERS 4

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)—Bobby Witt Jr. hit a home run and scored three times to lead Kansas City over Milwaukee..

Both starting pitchers struggled out of the gate but settled down and limited the damage. The Royals' Brady Singer (3-1) allowed one run on five hits in 5 1/3 innings. He walked two and struck out four. Joe Ross (1-4) allowed three runs on three hits in five-plus innings, walking two and striking out two.

James McArthur picked up his eighth save after blowing his last two chances.

BLUE JAYS 5, PHILLIES 3

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Chris Bassitt tossed three-hit ball and struck out six over 6 2/3 innings and Vladimir Guerrero Jr. had three hits and an RBI to lead Toronto to a victory that ended Philadelphia's home winning streak at 11 games.

Jordan Romano gave up an RBI single to Bryson Stott in the ninth but retired Whit Merrifield on a foul pop with two runners on base for his fifth save.

The Phillies snapped an overall seven-game winning streak and fell shy of the franchise-record 12 straight victories at Citizens Bank Park, which opened in 2004. The Phillies won 16 straight home games in 1977 and 1991 at Veterans Stadium.

ANGELS 5, PIRATES 4

PITTSBURGH (AP)—Jo Adell hit his fifth homer of the season and added an RBI single and the Los Angeles Angels slipped by Pittsburgh.

Brandon Drury added two hits, including an RBI double during a three-run outburst in the sixth by Los Angeles, which won its first series in more than a month by taking two of three from the Pirates.

Zach Neto also had two hits for the Angels. Kevin Pillar, a day removed from six RBIs in a shutout win, had a hit and scored a run for Los Angeles. Adam Cimber (3-0) worked 1 1/3 innings of scoreless relief. Carlos Estévez worked a perfect ninth for his sixth save.

Oneil Cruz had two hits and three RBIs, including a two-run double in the fifth for Pittsburgh. The towering shortstop is hitting .340 (16 for 47) over his past 13 games as he tries to emerge from an early season funk a year removed from surgery to repair a broken left ankle. Connor Joe also had two hits for the Pirates.

PADRES 3, CUBS 0

CHICAGO (AP)—Dylan Cease struck out 12 and combined with two relievers on a one-hitter, as San Diego beat the Chicago Cubs.

Cease went seven innings in a triumphant return to Chicago after the White Sox dealt him to San Diego in March. He allowed the Cubs' lone hit when Yan Gomes reached on a slow roller toward the second baseman in the third. Cease (5-2) walked two and hit a batter while matching a career high with 113 pitches.

Wandy Peralta got three outs and Robert Suarez worked the ninth for his 12th save in 12 chances, finishing the Padres' second shutout this season.

Luis Arraez singled twice and scored twice, helping San Diego win for the sixth time in eight games.

DODGERS 3, MARLINS 1

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Teoscar Hernández hit a two-run homer in the sixth, Gavin Stone continued the run of solid Dodgers' starts and Los Angeles beat Miami to win its sixth straight and complete an unbeaten homestand.

Freddie Freeman got aboard with a two-out double off the wall in right field before Hernández drove a full-count changeup from Ryan Weathers (2-4) just over the wall in left center and past the outstretched glove of Miami left fielder Nick Gordon.

Hernández drove in all three Los Angeles runs in a game that went only 1 hour, 55 minutes. His RBI base hit to right marked the fourth straight game the Dodgers scored in the first inning.

Bryan De La Cruz went deep for the second straight game, accounting for Miami's only run with a solo shot to left in the fourth inning.

The Marlins have dropped five of six on their current road trip.

DIAMONDBACKS 4, REDS 3

CINCINNATI (AP)—Jordan Montgomery allowed two runs through seven innings, Eugenio Suárez homered and Arizona held on to beat Cincinnati, extending the Reds skid to a season-high seven straight.

The Diamondbacks won their third in a row and got another solid outing from a starting pitcher. Montgomery (2-2) scattered seven hits, struck out two and walked two. On Tuesday night, Zac Gallen threw six shutout innings as the Diamondbacks took the first game of the series.

Christian Walker, Gabriel Moreno and Pavin Smith also drove in runs for Arizona.

WHITE SOX 4, RAYS 1

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP)—Chris Flexen pitched six sharp innings, Paul DeJong homered again and the Chicago White Sox avoided their seventh sweep this season by beating Tampa Bay.

The AL-worst White Sox (9-28) won the season series 4-2. Chicago swept a three-game home set with the Rays from April 26-28.

Flexen (2-3) struck out eight while surrendering one run and three hits. The right-hander tossed five scoreless innings in a 9-4 win over Tampa Bay on April 26.

ORIOLES 7, NATIONALS 6, 12 INNINGS

WASHINGTON (AP)—Jorge Mateo drove in the go-ahead run with a 12th-inning single, and Baltimore survived another shaky outing by closer Craig Kimbrel to beat Washington and avoid being swept for the first time in nearly two years.

The Orioles blew two-run leads in the ninth and 11th. Ryan Mountcastle put Baltimore on top 5-3 with a two-run homer in the 11th off Hunter Harvey, but pinch-hitter Ildemaro Vargas hit a ground-rule double off Albert Suárez (2-0) in the bottom half to make it 5-4, and Jacob Young then tied it with a sacrifice fly.

In the 12th, Mateo led off with a base hit to score automatic runner Jordan Westburg, advanced to third on errors by third baseman Vargas and catcher Keibert Ruiz, and scored on a wild pitch by Jordan Weems (1-1).

BRAVES 5, RED SOX 0

ATLANTA (AP)—Marcell Ozuna kept up his torrid start with two more homers and Chris Sale pitched six innings against his former team, leading Atlanta to a victory over Boston and a sweep of their two-game interleague series Wednesday night.

Ozuna hit a three-run shot in the first inning and added a solo drive in the third off Nick Pivetta, who was roughed up in his first start since coming off the injured list.

Sale (5-1) pitched for the Red Sox from 2018-23—a tenure that began with a World Series championship but was largely marred by injuries before he was traded to Atlanta this past winter.

ATHLETICS 9, RANGERS 4, 1ST GAME
RANGERS 12, ATHLETICS 11, 2ND GAME

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—Shea Langeliers has been pounding his hometown Texas Rangers.

Langeliers hit a two-run homer on his way to a career-high five RBIs in the first game of a doubleheader and drove in another three runs in Game 2 as Oakland split the two games with Texas.

The A's beat the Rangers 9-4 in the first game and Texas held on for a 12-11 win in the nightcap, highlighted by three RBIs each from Jonah Heim and Nathaniel Lowe.

Oakland scored four runs in the ninth before Kirby Yates earned his seventh save by retiring Tyler Nevin on a flyball to right with runners on first and second.

Langeliers hit another two-run homer in the second game and added a run-scoring groundout. He topped Hall of Famer Reggie Jackson for the Oakland record for RBIs in a doubleheader. Jackson drove in seven on Aug. 24, 1969, against Baltimore—three in the first game and four more in the second.

Langeliers now has 21 RBIs against the Rangers, his most against any opponent.

YANKEES 9, ASTROS 4

NEW YORK (AP)—Juan Soto homered and drove in five runs, Aaron Judge and Giancarlo Stanton also went deep and the New York Yankees beat Houston.

It was the first time the power trio all connected in the same game for the Yankees, who won their fifth straight and improved to 6-0 against the Astros this season.

Stanton hit a 119.9 mph rocket into the second deck that was the hardest-hit ball in the majors this year.

New York starter Carlos Rodón (3-2) bounced back from his worst outing of the season last week in Baltimore. He allowed two runs and seven hits in 6 1/3 innings, earning a nice hand from the home crowd.

TWINS 6, MARINERS 3

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Carlos Correa and Trevor Larnach hit consecutive home runs for Minnesota in the first inning off Seattle starter George Kirby, and Minnesota hung on to beat Seattle and help Chris Paddack win his fourth straight start.

Willi Castro went deep in the second and hit an RBI triple in the fourth that put the Twins in front by three, giving Paddack (4-1) enough fuel to extend his career-long winning streak.

The right-hander, who missed most of the previous two seasons recovering from elbow reconstruction, matched his Twins best with 10 strikeouts while pitching into the sixth. He allowed a solo homer to Mitch Garver, the only run against him. Paddack, who got 19 swings and misses, has allowed two or fewer runs in five of seven starts.

The Twins let Paddack throw a season-high 99 pitches, before Caleb Thielbar entered for the last two outs in the sixth.

GIANTS 8, ROCKIES 6

DENVER (AP)—Michael Conforto homered and singled in a six-run second inning that sent San Francisco past struggling Colorado.

Blake Sabol and Conforto each finished with three of San Francisco's 13 hits. Jordan Hicks pitched five effective innings and the Giants won their second in a row after a four-game losing streak to secure the series win against Colorado.

Mike Yastrzemski had two hits, including a triple, and Sabol delivered an RBI double. San Francisco withstood a two-run homer by Elias Díaz off Camilo Doval with two outs in the bottom of the ninth.

Sean Bouchard had three hits for the Rockies, who have lost four straight and nine of 10. They own the worst record in the majors at 8-28 and remain the only club without a series victory or successive wins this season.

Chamber celebrates hole-in-one winner Nick Sablan Jr.

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce together with TurnKey Solutions, a valued chamber member, met yesterday to officially disburse Nick Sablan Jr.'s winnings as the hole-in-one winner for the Chamber's 15th Annual Scholarship Golf Tournament at the TurnKey office located in Garapan.

Sablan's amazing achievement not only earned him well-deserved recognition but also incredible prizes. Thanks to the generous sponsorship of Joeten Motors Co., Sablan drove home last Monday, May 6, 2024, in a brand new 2024 Nissan Versa. Yesterday, he went home with a check for $10,000 thanks to the generous sponsorship of TurnKey Solutions Inc.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

In the photo, from left to right, TurnKey Solutions managing partner Billy Grow, TK Client Services manager Adrian Tangcoy, Saipan Chamber of Commerce EdWork chair Mercilynn Palec, TK managing partner Broc Calvo, TK partner Jerry Lin, hole-in-one winner Nick Sablan Jr., Saipan Chamber of Commerce president Joe Guerrero, TK Marketing specialist Clinton Dela Cruz, Chamber executive director Kimm Camacho, TK Marketing director Liana Cortera, and TK Marketing & Client Service assistant Tony Atalig.

"The Chamber is extremely grateful for the sponsors that made Sablan 's winnings possible. Without their generous support and contribution, his momentous achievement would not have been possible. Their commitment to fostering community engagement and supporting educational endeavors reflects their dedication to the growth and prosperity of our people and our island. We extend our heartfelt appreciation to Joeten Motors Co. and TurnKey Solutions for their support and commitment to excellence," said Chamber executive directory Kimm Camacho.

The Chamber is a non-profit organization whose mission is to empower our enterprises as a resource, advocate, and connector for Saipan's private sector. Its vision is to create an island where businesses, families, and communities succeed as one. For more information or to learn how to become a Chamber member, visit online at www.saipanchamber.com, call (670) 234-7150, or visit the 2nd Floor of the Marianas Business Plaza (Suite 201-A). ***(PR)***

KANOA

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in the 23rd minute to set the tone for her team. Teammate Fiona Regan would follow suit just five minutes later to make it 2-0.

Paire couldn't catch a break and before they could even get one on the board, MP United added two more from Addalee Taflinger for a 4-0 game. Paire's Kaye Anne Costales finally found the back of the net, but by then it was too late to play catch up as time ran out.

U14 boys division

In the U14 boys division, MP United will go up against Latte FC.

MP United shutdown Matansa, 7-1 in the semis and punched their ticket into the finals.

MP United bombarded Matansa's goal early on and before even the 24th minute, they've already scored all of their seven goals. Quido Jambor contributed one, while Taiga Namai-Scoggins and Landon Springer put up three each.

Meanwhile, the only goal by Matansa was made by Rhyane Umali in the 38th minute.

Latte, on the other hand, beat Kanoa FC 1, 2-0.

Latte's Kian Estolas found the back of the net just a minute into the game. They kept their momentum up throughout and in the 25th, Tanner McClure made it 2-0. Kanao couldn't recover and conceded.

U14 girls division

Kanoa girls in the U14 division is taking on Shirley's in the finals.

Kanoa first silenced MP United, 6-0, in the semis.

Kanoa's Aubrey White scored a hat-trick and put them up, 3-0, in the 16th minute. Teammate Beatrice Gross contributed one in the 24th, then Ye Lynn Ha scored their sixth goal later in the 37th minute. MP United, tried as they might, could not get on the scoreboard.

Then, Shirley's outplayed Latte, 3-1.

Shirley's Alyssa Borlongan broke the ice in the 21st minute, then immediately followed it up four minutes later to put them up, 2-0.

Then, Latte's Xyriel Pascual chipped away at the lead with a goal three minutes later for a 1-2 game. But Darshwana Chhetri gave Shirley's an extra goal in the 36th minute and they managed to keep the lead and win, 3-1.

U12 boys division

In the youngest division, Kanoa 1's U12 boys is challenging MP United in the finals.

Kanoa 1 took care of business against Matansa, 6-2 in the semis.

Kanoa's Aldric Antonio completed the hat-trick before the 19th minute mark and added one more in the 36th minute. Teammates Benaiah Murphy and Eric Palacios Jr. collected a goal each.

For Matansa, Lashwan Lizama scored their team's two goals by the 13th minute. They could not get any more after.

Meanwhile, MP United claimed the last finals spot after they blanked Kanoa 2. 6-0.

MP United's Evan Poole and Quido Jambor scored a goal each, while Mateo Angeles and Kanoa Owens kicked in two goals each.

OL' ACES

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1-point, 31-30 lead—thanks to the Ron Laxamana and Jay Art Palmes' contributions from the charity line.

It was all or nothing in the second half and that was when Ol'Aces put their game into overdrive—and it paid off. They learned from their mistakes in the second quarter and tightened their defense.

As a result, Ol'Aces' offense exploded, and led by Sakisat, they came out of the third with a huge 16-point lead. From there, 670 Akkari Ruuw 2, fatigued and running on fumes, converted only 9 more points while Ol'Aces blew the game wide open even before the five-minute mark.

Sakisat collected the most points with 18, while Mathew Lukas and Harry Kapwich put up 10 each. For 670 Akkari Ruuw 2, Palmes led the team with 24, while J.C. Ong had 12 markers, and Laxamana scored 8.

For Pegs, they routed Lakay, 88-70, last Tuesday.

Ol'Aces 76 – Sakisat Jr. 18, Lukas 10, Kapwich 10, Joyner 8, B. Rangamar 8, Kabiriel 6, Castro 6, E. Rangamar 4, Libuw 4, Fiden 2.

670 Akkari Ruuw 2 47 – Palmes 24, Ong 12, Laxamana 8, Kwon 3.

Scoring by quarters: 22-12, 30-31, 54-38, 76-47.

ZARINAE

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all be there [to] support one another and I'm so excited for them!"

For Saipan Southern High School senior Cruz, who competed alongside Tan and Rodgers in the 2023 Pacific Games, she said being selected for the OAC is a blessing.

"Getting to go off-island and represent my country is something I love doing. I'm beyond grateful," said Cruz who is also competing in the 100m and 200m events. Her goal is to beat her personal best times in both.

As for her training regimen, she said she trains daily except Sundays. "I hit the gym on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays in the morning, and on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays, I'm at the track. It's my routine to keep fit and focused," she said.

On what she looks forward to in the event, Cruz said, "I'm excited to reconnect with familiar faces from previous off-island competitions and to make new acquaintances as well. I'm also eager to compete against faster runners as they inspire me to push myself harder on the track."

For Grace Christian Academy student Rodgers, he said, "It's an amazing feeling to be chosen to compete in the OAC. I'm grateful for this opportunity and excited to represent my team and country."

Rodgers' goal, like the rest of the team, is to achieve new PBs and potentially set new records. There, he is "anticipating the opportunity to meet fellow athletes at the OAC and making new friendships. Moreover, I'm excited to create new memories."

According to NMA's selection policy, it is based on an athlete's performance, commitment and dedication, coach's recommendation, and availability.

Athletes are evaluated based on their performance in sanctioned track and field events; the coach and selection committee, if applicable, will review athlete performances and make selections based on the established criteria; athletes who meet the criteria and are selected will be notified of their inclusion in the team; and athletes must meet World Athletics Eligibility Requirements in order to represent NMI.

The Oceania Athletic Championships was first held in 1990, at the National Stadium of Fiji in Suva. Since that first edition, the Championships have been held in eight different federations.

Injured Brunson sparks Knicks past Pacers in Game 2.

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Sports

Chamber celebrates hole-in-one winner Nick Sablan Jr.

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Kanoa, Latte to face off in U17 boys finals

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

Kanoa Football Club and Latte Football club are squaring off in the finals of the U17 boys division this Saturday in the TakeCare Youth Soccer League Spring 2024.

Both teams won their semis matches last Saturday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

Kanoa claimed the first playoff spot after blanking MP United FC, 1-0.

It was a level playing field as both teams controlled the ball well in the first half. A lot of near misses and missed opportunities made the first half a scoreless one on both ends. But it changed when Kanoa regrouped and found an opening in the 41st by Tyler Omelau to get them on board, 1-0.

MP United staged a comeback thereafter, but it would not be successful as Kanoa's defense had an iron-clad grip on the pitch. In the end, MP United's efforts had nothing to show for as they conceded the finals spot to Kanoa.

Latte then slipped past Matansa FC, 2-1.

The first half was good to Latte as they made plays that resulted in goals. Zhi Xiang Lin opened up the game in the 19th minute as he scored the first goal for the early advantage.

Matansa quickly worked to get back into it and in 11 minutes, reaped the fruit of their labor as MD Arif Hossain Khan tied it up, 1-1.

The first half came and went quietly and it was still anybody's game at that point, but Lin still had a trick up his cleat. In the 64th minute, he scored the 2nd goal which eventually won them the match as Matansa failed to draw up another one.

U17 girls division

In the U17 girls division, Kanoa is facing off against MP United this Saturday.

Kanoa overpowered Shirley's, 8-0, last Saturday and grabbed the first finals spot.

Kanoa controlled the pitch from the get-go without giving Shirley's a break. The game quickly became one sided as they scored six goals within 24 minutes—five made by Ye Lynn Ha and one by Beatrice Gross.

Two more would score in the second half by Aubrey White and Elikristiana Iglecias, for their eventual 8-0 win.

MP United then sealed their finals fate against Paire, 4-1.

MP United had the advantage early as Ella Hall scored

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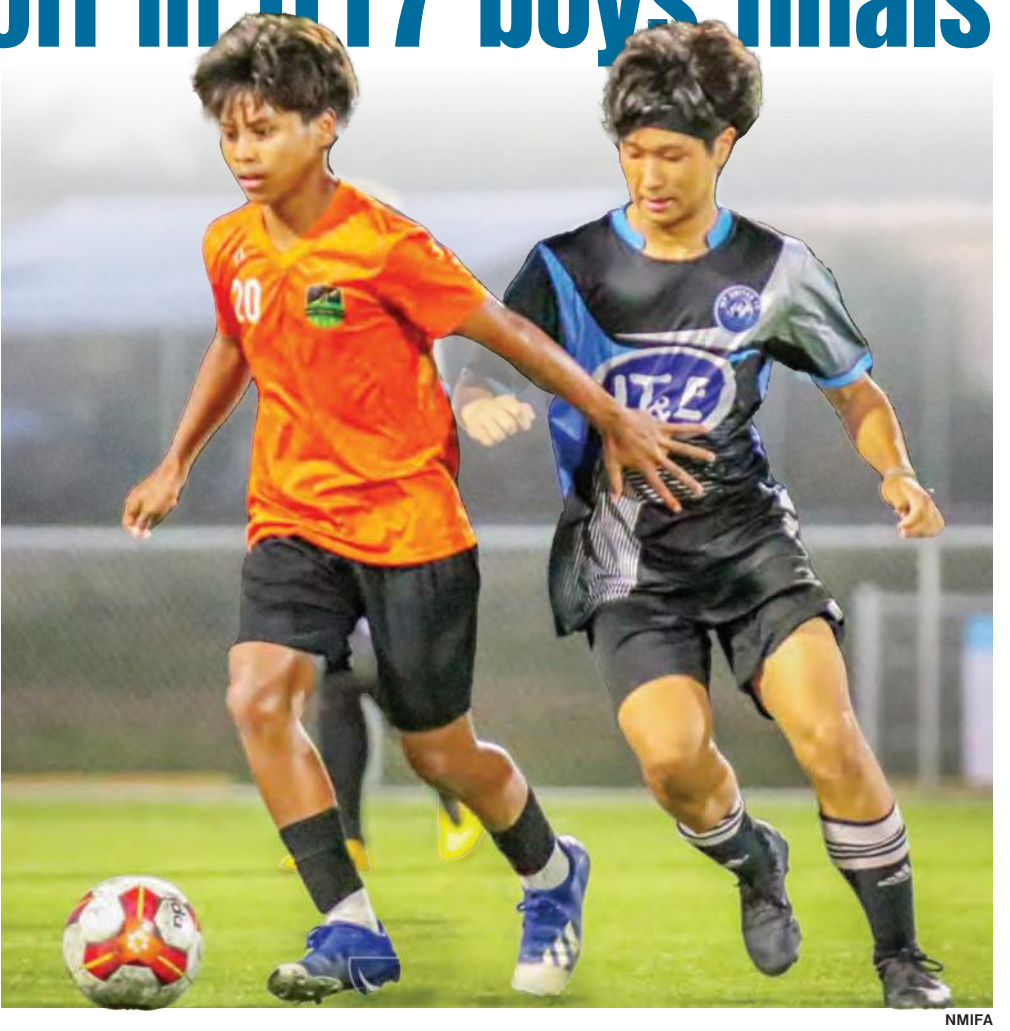

NMIFA

Kanoa's Tyler Omelau, left, tries to escape an MP United player during their semis game in the TakeCare Youth Soccer League Spring 2024 at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville last Saturday.

Ol'Aces pummel 670 Akkari Ruuw 2, 76-47

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

Ol'Aces pummeled 670 Akkari Ruuw 2, 76-47, in the 2024 Michelob Ultra Cup (men's open division) last Wednesday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

It was a dominant start to the game for Ol'Aces as their lead grew with each shot. Contributions from their starting five allowed them to have a 10-point lead heading into the second quarter—without help from the free throw or 3-point line.

However, 670 Akkari Ruuw 2 had a spark of life in the second quarter as they bodied their way through the paint and elicited multiple fouls. In a turn of events, it was a low-scoring quarter for Ol'Aces as only 8 points were made by Elias Rangamar, Melvin Sakisat Jr., and Jawn Joyner.

At the half, the tables have turned in favor of 670 Akkari Ruuw 2, as they now had a

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LEIGH GASES

File photo shows Ol'Aces' Kevin Kabiriel release a shot during their game in the 2024 Michelob Ultra Cup (men's open division) at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Zarinae, Tania, Casey, Theo to rep NMI in OAC

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

Four of the CNMI's finest and up-and-coming track stars are set to represent in the 2024 Oceania Athletics Championships in Suva, Fiji from June 1 to June 8.

The athletes are Tania Tan, fresh off breaking multiple records and personal bests; Zarinae Sapong, who recently broke her personal best in the 2024 World Athletics Indoor Championships; and Casey Cruz and Theodore Rodgers, young high school student-athletes who already have off island competition experience.

Tan, who is finishing up her last NCAA season in the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa and broke two NMI records—the 5,000m and 10,000m, said she is grateful for the opportunity to represent the NMI once again.

"This is a bigger event so the competitors will also be more competitive. I'm hoping to just do my best, represent the NMI proudly, no matter what the result may be," she said.

Sapong, who broke her personal best in the 60m in the 2024 World Athletics Indoor Championships in Glasnow, Scotland, said, "it is an incredible honor and I'm very happy to have been selected to represent the NMI at OAC.

This time around, Sapong is competing in the 100m and 200m events. On how her training is going, she said, "Lately training has been all about improving my reaction time and my running mechanics. In every competition my main goal is to apply all my training on race day, and to come out with a new personal best."

She added, "I'm looking forward to seeing the team compete! I know they've been working so, so, so hard—we'll

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NMA

Casey Cruz, Theodore Rodgers, Zarinae Sapong, and Tania Tan are representing the NMI in the 2024 Oceania Athletics Championships in Suva, Fiji from June 1 to June 8.